

ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

VOLUME X.—NUMBER 16.
WHOLE NUMBER 484.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1872.

SIX DOLLARS PER YEAR.
SINGLE COPIES, FIFTEEN CENTS.

Publication Office No. 39 Park Row.

SUBSCRIPTION SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

THE ARMY.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 19, 1872.

General Orders No. 99.

Reports have been received of an engagement with hostile Indians on the 29th of September, 1872, on the north fork of the Red river, near the mouth of McLellan's creek, Texas, by the expedition under the command of Colonel R. S. McKenzie, Fourth Cavalry. The following named officers are specially mentioned for gallant conduct: Major A. E. Latimer, Fourth Cavalry; Captain John Lee, Fourth Cavalry; Captain Wirt Davis, Fourth Cavalry; Captain J. W. Clous, Twenty-fourth Infantry; First Lieutenant P. M. Boehm, Fourth Cavalry; First Lieutenant Charles L. Hudson, Fourth Cavalry; First Lieutenant W. A. Thompson, Fourth Cavalry; First Lieutenant Louis Warrington, Fourth Cavalry; Second Lieutenant Wentz C. Miller, Fourth Cavalry; Second Lieutenant John A. M. Kinney, Fourth Cavalry, adjutant of the expedition; Second Lieutenant Matthew Leeper, Jr., Fourth Cavalry. Acting Assistant Surgeon Rufus Choate is commended for his care of the wounded under fire.

On recommendation of the General of the Army the Secretary of War has awarded medals of honor to the following enlisted men reported as specially distinguished in the engagement: Corporal Henry A. Mc Masters, Company A, Fourth Cavalry; First Sergeant William McNamara, Company F, Fourth Cavalry; Sergeant William Foster, Company F, Fourth Cavalry; Farrier David Larkin, Company F, Fourth Cavalry; Private William Rankin, Company F, Fourth Cavalry; Private Edward Branagan, Company F, Fourth Cavalry; Sergeant William Wilson, Company I, Fourth Cavalry; Corporal William O'Neil, Company I, Fourth Cavalry; Blacksmith James Pratt, Company I, Fourth Cavalry.

By command of General Sherman.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the Adjutant-General's Office for the week ending November 23, 1872.

[No Special Orders were issued from the Adjutant-General's office on Tuesday, the 19th instant.]

Wednesday, November 20.

Discharged.—Recruit Edwin R. Bean, General Service U. S. Army.

The leave of absence granted First Lieutenant L. A. Abbott, Sixth Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 154, September 25, 1872, from headquarters Department of the Missouri, is extended five months.

Leave of absence for twenty days, from December 2 next, is granted Captain Charles A. Wikoff, Eleventh Infantry.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, Assistant Surgeon Washington Matthews will report in person to the commanding general Department of the East for assignment to duty.

Second Lieutenant Frederick D. Grant, Fourth Cavalry, is relieved from duty with the General of the Army, and will proceed to join his regiment.

Thursday, November 21.

Discharged.—Unattached Private Willie R. Mooney, alias William Antonio, Fifth Cavalry.

Dishonorably Discharged.—Hospital Steward George Lander, U. S. Army.

The telegraphic order of the 18th inst., from this office, directing the Superintendent Mounted Recruiting Service to order First Lieutenant W. L. Sherwood, Twenty-first Infantry, to proceed to Omaha, Nebraska, to await the arrival and to report to the commanding officer of a detachment of recruits en route to the Pacific coast, to accompany the detachment and join his regiment, is confirmed.

Friday, November 22.

Discharged.—Private Sidney H. Furman, Battery I, First Artillery; by direction of the President, Private Garrard Strode, General Service U. S. Army.

Colonel L. C. Easton, assistant quartermaster-general, will report in person at 9 o'clock a. m. on the 29th inst., at the Department of Justice, in this city, as a witness for the United States in certain cases before the Court of Claims. When his presence is no longer required, Colonel Easton will return to his station.

The Superintendent Mounted Recruiting Service will cause to be prepared and forwarded under proper charge two hundred and fifty recruits to Taylor Barracks, Louisville, Ky., where they will be reported, upon arrival, to the commanding general Department of the South for assignment to the Seventh Cavalry.

Major John W. Barlow, Corps of Engineers, will repair to this city and perform the special duty assigned him by the Chief of Engineers, and upon completion of the same he will return to his proper station.

Saturday, November 23.

The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant Richard A. Williams, Eighth Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 217, September 17, 1872, from this office, is extended four months.

The leave of absence granted First Lieutenant George W. Steele, Fourteenth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 88, September 21, 1872, from headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, is extended thirty days.

Dishonorably Discharged.—Recruit John De Lanes (colored), Mounted Service U. S. Army.

Monday, November 25.

Transferred.—Private George W. McClaine, Company K, Thirty-fourth Infantry, to Company A, Fourth Infantry.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

Brigadier-General A. A. Humphreys, U. S. A., Chief of Engineers.

An Associated Press despatch announces that "From the report on the sea coast defences of New York city it appears that the modifications of Fort Schuyler, to conform that work to the requirements of the modern defensive system, have so far progressed that the north front will be completed during the present fiscal year and the northeast front be taken in hand immediately thereafter. The estimates for the next fiscal year are \$100,000, or \$15,000 more than the yearly appropriation granted last session. The fort at Willett's Point, which unites with Fort Schuyler in defending the entrance to the port by the East River, requires to be put in a better state of defence now that the Hell Gate obstructions are in a fast way of removal, and \$100,000 is asked for in consequence. This is regarded as a favorable site for the scattered earthen barbette batteries that are a prominent feature of the new defensive system, and two of those batteries, of two and six guns respectively, have been completed, and a part of a large battery of ten guns has also been finished up for service. Another six-gun battery will shortly be completed and, when funds are provided, the construction of others will begin. An appropriation of \$76,000 was granted at the last session, which with the balance from former grants, has paid for the work already done, which also includes a large magazine to hold 250,000 pounds of cannon powder. Extensive repairs and modifications have been completed at Fort Columbus, on Governor's Island, including a new six-gun barbette battery. An appropriation of \$70,000 for the coming year is wanted by the engineer in charge. At Fort Wood, on Bedloe's Island, defending New York, Jersey City, and a part of Brooklyn, but little has been done the past year, and the estimate for the coming year is but \$40,000. On Fort Hamilton, down the bay, and its outlying batteries, \$40,000 was appropriated for the present year, and \$40,000 is asked for to go on with the work. The mortar battery intended to play upon the decks of hostile ships while entangled in obstructions or dragging for torpedoes, is about completed. At the new Fort Tompkins on Staten Island, commanding the Narrows, much work is nearing completion. Thirty thousand dollars is the estimated sum which, with the balance of the \$83,000 last appropriated, will carry on the construction during the next year. The glacis gun battery to the north of the main work and the glacis mortar battery to the south are finished. Battery Hudson and the North Cliff battery are almost finished, and the modification of the South Cliff battery is shortly to be commenced. At the fort at Sandy Hook it has been necessary to build two jetties of sheet piling for the protection of the site from the washing of the waves, and a beach is rapidly forming. These comprise all the important operations of the past year.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Colonel W. H. Emory: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.

Payment of Troops.—Major George L. Febiger, chief paymaster of this department, November 16 was directed to Jackson, Oxford and Holly Springs, Mississippi, for the purpose of paying the troops at those posts. After which he will return to his station at New Orleans. He is also charged with the payment at Little Rock, Arkansas, and Aberdeen and Meridian, Mississippi.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieutenant-Gen. P. H. Sheridan: Headquarters Chicago, Ill.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.

A General Court-martial is appointed to meet at Fort Shaw, M. T., December 11. The following officers of the Seventh Infantry are detailed for the court: Captains C. O. Rawn, G. L. Browning, J. M. J. Sanno; First Lieutenants Constant Williams, William Logan, Daniel Robinson; Second Lieutenants C. A. Woodruff, J. T. Van Orsdale, C. A. Worden, A. V. Amet. First Lieutenant A. H. Jackson, judge-advocate.

Seventh Infantry.—Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. Gilbert, November 12 was directed as soon as practicable to proceed to Fort Ellis, M. T., on public business under special instructions which he was to receive from department headquarters. While at that post and at Helena en route, Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert was ordered to inspect the accounts of disbursing officers in the manner prescribed in G. O. No. 87, c. 2, W. D., A. G. O., for which purpose he was appointed a special inspector.

Fort Totten, D. T.—Telegraphic instructions from department headquarters November 12, directed the commanding officer of Fort Totten, D. T., to cause to be

transferred to Fort Cross, D. T., such surplus building material and quartermaster's stores now at his post, as may be required at Fort Cross.

Fort Shaw, M. T.—The commanding officer of Fort Shaw, M. T., November 12 was directed to detail a commissioned officer of his command, with instructions to proceed to Camp Baker, M. T., and report to the commanding officer for temporary garrison court-martial duty.

Fort Snelling, Minn.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Snelling, Minn., November 21. Detail for the court: Colonel George Sykes, Twentieth Infantry; Surgeon A. Hegar, U. S. Army; Captains H. G. Thomas, Twentieth Infantry, Hamilton Lieber, military storekeeper, U. S. Army; First Lieutenant T. W. Lord, Second Lieutenant W. H. Low, Jr., Twentieth Infantry. First Lieutenant S. E. Carnoross, Twentieth Infantry, judge-advocate.

Second Infantry.—The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant J. B. Rodman, by S. O. No. 98, c. 2, headquarters Fort Wadsworth, D. T., November 16 was extended seven days.

Sixth Infantry.—First Lieutenant F. W. Thibaut, November 18, was assigned to temporary duty at Fort Stevenson, D. T., until such time as he could join his proper station.

Seventeenth Infantry.—The commanding officer of Fort McKeen, D. T., November 18 was directed to detail from his command a subaltern of the Seventeenth Infantry, with instructions to report to the commanding officer Camp Hancock, D. T., for duty until such time as a subaltern of the company stationed at that post rejoins his company.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

Brigadier-General John Pope: Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.

Third Infantry.—Leave of absence for twenty-five days, to date from December 1 has been granted Second Lieutenant W. S. Mackay.

Sixth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days to date from December 10, has been granted First Lieutenant Sebree Smith.

Major C. E. Compton, who was detailed as member of the General Court-martial in session at Santa Fe, N. M., November 16 was authorized to make the journey from Fort Hays to Santa Fe, via Pueblo, C. T.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord, Headquarters, Omaha, Nebraska.

Sidney Barracks, Neb.—Major George D. Ruggles, assistant adjutant-general U. S. Army, November 18 was ordered to Sidney Barracks, Neb., as a witness before the General Court-martial in session at that post.

Ninth Infantry.—Leave of absence for thirty days on surgeon's certificate of disability November 16 was granted Second Lieutenant William H. Miller.

Surgeon John F. Randolph, Medical Department, November 16 was ordered to report in person to the commanding officer of Omaha Barracks, for duty as post surgeon at that station, relieving Assistant Surgeon F. Meacham. Upon being relieved Assistant Surgeon F. Meacham was ordered to Sidney Barracks, reporting to its commanding officer for duty as post surgeon at that station, relieving Assistant Surgeon C. L. Heizman, who was ordered to Omaha Barracks, for duty at that station.

Second Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days November 16 was granted Major N. B. Sweitzer.

Eighth Infantry.—Leave of absence for thirty days, to take effect upon his return to his station from the duty upon which he is now engaged, was granted to Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Wallen.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

Brigadier-General C. C. Augur: Headquarters San Antonio, Texas.

Twenty-fourth Infantry.—Captain John W. Clous November 4 was ordered to San Antonio, Texas, to complete the maps of Colonel Mackenzie's operations during the summer, in time to join his command for Fort Brown, Texas, when it leaves San Antonio.

Fort Concho, Texas.—A correspondent writing from this post says: We have had a visit from General Augur, who arrived here on the 6th inst., accompanied by General S. B. Holabird, deputy quartermaster-general and chief quartermaster, Department of Texas. A salute was fired from two of the four pieces of artillery at the post; the day was raw and damp, and the General immediately proceeded to the quarters of Major Hatch, Fourth Cavalry, brevet brigadier-general, the post commandant. In the afternoon the officers in a body went to General Hatch's quarters and paid their respects to the commanding general. In the evening the officers and all the ladies of the post assembled at Mrs. Hatch's, the very agreeable lady of the post commandant, where a few pleasant hours were passed in social intercourse. Next morning General Augur inspected the command, and the post. The command consists of three companies Eleventh Infantry, and three companies Fourth Cavalry; the companies all looked very small on the parade ground, the Infantry companies having scarcely ten men to a company out. A review was intended, but owing to the very unpleasant state of the weather, did not come off. General Augur left the post about 1:30 P. M., en route to Fort Griffin and Fort Richardson, Texas. Captain Rendlebrook, Fourth Cavalry, and Second Lieutenant Lieper, Fourth Cavalry, with twenty enlisted men, accompanied General Augur as escort. Captain Rendlebrook, it is reported, will bring back some of the horses lately pur-

chased for the use of the Fourth Cavalry at this post. The Post of Concho has improved during the past few years, but lacks considerable yet of what it ought to be. Quarters for officers being totally insufficient for the size of the command usually kept at the post, and there being no stables, or shelter whatever for the cavalry animals, which after a rain are often found standing in water up to their fetlocks, and shivering in a wet "Norther," which tends to anything but "good condition." It is really a matter of surprise that some shelter has not been provided for the animals at a post which was a "Cavalry Post" from the first. Rumors are rife that headquarters Fourth Cavalry are about to be transferred from Fort Richardson to Fort Concho, a change which will be very acceptable indeed to the garrison at the latter post, as they will have the pleasure of hearing "Sweet Music" discoursed by one of the best regimental bands in the service, the band of the Fourth Cavalry. Complaints deep, but not at all loud, are made at the death of small stores in the post commissary, there being little beyond the regular Army ration procurable at the post, and as there are many ladies, (officers' families), the want of those self-same "small stores" is a very great deprivation. As common an article as butter has not been seen for nearly three months, and it is a matter of record that Irish potatoes were once seen at this post. Officers from other posts express their astonishment very freely at this state of things, and immediately proceed to run over a list of the good things to be had in the commissary at their post. But lack of small stores is "chronic" at Concho, (it is said), and surely it is a chronic case that could be cured easily enough. Some eighteen or twenty men deserted last pay day, a number having received four months' pay, at once, not having been paid regularly in consequence of being absent on the Mackenzie Expedition. One of the remedies for desertion is frequent payments, for men who think of deserting will go much quicker with money in their pocket than when they have none. A citizen was shot in the head and killed a night or two ago, at a small place across the North Concho river, opposite the post called St. Angelo, but from the eternal shooting, and drunken fighting, and frequent loss of life the inhabitants and their visitors are anything but "saints." The Jolly Post Trader, Mr. James Trainer, has been sojourning at the post for some little time past. His extensive business outside keeps him frequently absent, to the sorrow of his many friends at the post, although his place is well and efficiently filled during his absence by his brother John Trainer, who is a very pleasant gentleman and almost as much a favorite as James. They are both the right men in the right place, and may their shadows never be less (at Concho). *Ex uno disce omnes.* CUI BONO.

FORT CONCHO, TEXAS.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

—: Hdq'r's, Philadelphia.

DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

Brig.-Gen. I. McDowell: Hdq'r's, cor. Greene and Houston sts., N. Y.

The following officers were registered at headquarters Department of the East for the week ending November 26: First Lieutenant L. E. Campbell, Twenty-second Infantry; Colonel F. F. Flint, Fourth Infantry; Colonel R. C. Drum, assistant adjutant-general; Captain J. G. Turnbull, Third Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Wallen, Eighth Infantry; Captain W. L. Kellogg, Tenth Infantry.

Assistant Surgeon Washington Matthews, U. S. A., November 25 was ordered to proceed to David's Island, N. Y. H., reporting to the commanding officer for temporary duty.

The leave of absence granted Surgeon J. C. McKee, U. S. Army, in paragraph 1, S. O. No. 220, a. s., from department headquarters was extended eight days November 25.

Third Artillery.—Battery H, Third Artillery, November 21 was ordered to take post at David's Island, New York Harbor, on its arrival in New York Harbor from the Department of the South.

Leave of absence for twenty-four days November 25 was granted Captain A. O. Wildrick.

Fourth Artillery.—A correspondent writes us from Fort Monroe: "Four batteries of the Fourth Artillery passed by Fort Monroe November 18, under the command of Major Morgan. The men were crowded in the sloppy gangways without any proper accommodations for sleeping. Wouldn't it be well to have a captain and A. Q. M. always accompany troops on such a journey (as doctors do), with positive orders to remain right in the midst of the men, so that at least one of the staff should suffer with each 300 of the line they supply. It would be like tying a railroad director on his engine as a preventive of accidents."

Fifth Artillery.—Leaves of absence for thirty days, on surgeon's certificate of disability, were granted First Lieutenant T. R. Adams, and Captain Richard Arnold, November 25.

A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Trumbull, Conn., November 30. The following officers of the Fifth Artillery were detailed for the court: Captain F. L. Guenther, First Lieutenants S. A. Day, B. K. Roberts, Frank Thorp, T. R. Adams, Second Lieutenants A. L. Morton, W. B. Homer. First Lieutenant O. H. Howard, judge-advocate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE LAKES.

Brigadier-General P. St. G. Cooke: Headquarters, Detroit, Mich.

Payment of Troops.—Paymaster H. C. Pratt, chief paymaster of the department November 19 was ordered to proceed to and pay the troops at Fort Gratiot, Michigan; Indianapolis Arsenal, Indiana, and Columbus Arsenal, Ohio.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

Major-Gen. J. M. Schofield: Hdq'r's San Francisco, Cal.

General Orders No. 14, issued from headquarters Military Division of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.,

dated November 9, announce the death of General Meade as follows: "In respect for the memory of Major-General George G. Meade, U. S. Army, whose illustrious services to his country have won for him imperishable renown and the enduring gratitude of his countrymen, it is ordered that on the day of his funeral, Monday the 11th instant, the national flag be displayed at half-mast at all the posts in the harbor of San Francisco, and from Alcatraz island half-hour guns be fired from sunrise to sunset."

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

Camp McDermitt, Nev.—Acting Assistant Surgeon George Campbell, U. S. Army November 9 was ordered to proceed to Camp McDermitt, Nevada, and report to the commanding officer of that post for duty, relieving Acting Assistant Surgeon W. H. Corbuser, U. S. Army, who on being relieved, was directed to comply with par. 4, S. O. No. 264, a. s., A. G. O., directing him to report to the commanding officer Department of Arizona for assignment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.

Brigadier-General E. E. S. Canby: Headquarters, Portland, Oregon.

Under authority from the major-general commanding, Acting Assistant Surgeon H. H. Davis, November 5 was relieved from duty in this department and ordered to San Francisco, Cal., reporting at the headquarters of the Military Division of the Pacific.

Twenty-first Infantry.—Paragraph 1, of S. O. No. 147, dated November 4, 1872, from department headquarters, is amended to read as follows: "Leave of absence for thirty days on surgeon's certificate of disability, with permission to go beyond the department, is hereby granted to First Lieutenant J. L. Johnston, regimental quartermaster Twenty-first Infantry."

Second Artillery.—Second Lieutenant M. Crawford, November 7, was ordered to report to the commanding officer Fort Vancouver, to conduct to Alcatraz Island, under suitable guard all general prisoners awaiting transportation to that post, and upon completion of this duty to rejoin his proper station.

Fort Vancouver, W. T.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Vancouver, W. T., November 11. Detail for the court: Surgeon J. H. Bill, Medical Department; Major E. C. Mason, Twenty-first Infantry; Captains W. H. Bell, Subsistence Department, H. W. Jones, assistant quartermaster, George H. Burton, First Lieutenant W. H. Boyle, Twenty-first Infantry. Captain V. M. C. Silva, Twenty-first Infantry, judge-advocate.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Crook: Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.

Twenty-third Infantry.—Second Lieutenant Henry C. Johnson, late Twenty-third Infantry, retired, October 26 was relieved from duty at Camp Bowie, A. T., and ordered to proceed to his home and report by letter to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

Fifth Cavalry.—Captain J. W. Mason reports that on October 24, with his command consisting of Companies B, C, and K, Fifth Cavalry, he found the Apache Mojaves in strong force on a high mountain overlooking the Santa Maria country, and dislodged them with severe labor. That the next morning he struck the retreating Indians and killed nine, and is of opinion that all the Indians have left that section of country.

LETTERS IN THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

The following is a list of letters remaining in the New York Post-office on the dates given. These letters are retained in the New York Office for one month from date, after which they are sent to the Dead-Letter Office, Washington:

NOVEMBER 22.	
Burggess, J. O., Captain.	Pultz, M. D., Captain.
Holmes, C., late Lieut.-Col.	Stapleford, J. W., Captain.
Montyue, C. G., Captain.	Veale, W. H., Captain.
McLaughlin, Robert, Captain.	Wilbur, Captain.
NOVEMBER 26.	
Adderly, Miles, Captain.	Johnston, J. P., Captain.
Blake, Mark, Captain.	Small, A. L., Captain.
Chisolm, A. K., Colonel.	Wint, T. J., Captain.
Debaur, R. T., Captain.	Lovell, M., General.
Jervis, Captain.	Martin, J. A., Colonel.

ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

A CORRESPONDENT in the Cincinnati Enquirer writing from Dayton, O., November 20, gives the following account of the meeting of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland. Last night and this morning every train that arrived from the South, East, West and North, brought some distinguished member of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland to their Fifth Annual Reunion, which was appointed to take place in this city to-day and to-morrow. When, at half-past nine o'clock, the meeting was called to order by General Wood, in the absence of General Sheridan, quite a large number of soldiers, some of them non-commissioned, were assembled at their headquarters at the Phillips House.

General Wood introduced Chaplain Van Horn, who invoked the blessing of God. General Wood then introduced Mayor Sigman, who in a short speech welcomed the Society to the hospitality of the city. Mr. Sigman in his speech feelingly alluded to the chair made vacant since the last meeting of the Society by the death of General George H. Thomas.

When Mr. Sigman had concluded, Mr. Steele, Secretary of the Society, read letters, in reply to invitations, from General Sherman, President Grant, General Meigs and General Belknap, who could not come. General Sherman's letter read as follows:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE U. S.,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 23.

GENERAL T. J. WOOD, Dayton, O.—Dear Wood: Thank you for the welcome home and the invitation to the Army of Cumberland meeting on November 20 and 21. I have been away so much that really I ought to stay at home, and on the whole, I would rather avoid all public assemblages for a time, as I would be forced

to speak and might say or do something not prudent. I hope that you all know that my most ardent sympathies are with the old war comrades, but these have formed so many societies, and so many combinations, that it is simply impossible for me to attend all or even half. Always thanking you, I am, as ever, your friend.

W. T. SHERMAN, General.

A letter was received and read from Hon. L. B. Gunkel, inviting the Society to spend to-morrow at the Soldiers' Home, which was accepted. After this business was transacted different members of the Society were called on to make speeches. In reply to numerous calls General Hooker took the stand and made the following speech:

"Mr. President and Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen—I am sincerely thankful to all of you for the kindness with which you have received my name. I have no ambition for public speaking, and never set myself up as a talker. [Applause.] But I am really glad to see my all comrades here, and I hope I may see them here a thousand years hence, some of them. [Applause.] I think the time rather improves our old comrades—God bless them! [Applause.] I would rather receive the recognition of the Army of the Cumberland than that of any other army I was ever connected with. I do not wish to disparage the other army—I mean the Army of the Potomac. In my estimation it was in no way inferior to the Army of the Cumberland. The only difference between the two armies was this: The Chief of the latter was commissioned from heaven [applause]; the Chief of the other army was commissioned in Washington. [Renewed applause.] I wanted to say this: If the Army of the Cumberland was distinguished for valor, it was owing to the character of its Chief, which was so broad and so large that every soldier in the army was imbued with it. Our country is filled with rings. Unless we get rid of them, we will become as bad in history as France. Gentlemen, there are a great many others here who want to say something, and I will fall back and give them an opportunity."

General J. C. Davis was then called upon, but declined. Colonel Wilson made a short speech in response to a call. Governor Noyes was then called on, and made a lengthy speech, welcoming the Society to the State of Ohio. Generals Morgan, McCook, Ward, Williams, Whipple, and Thurston, each, in reply to call, made short speeches.

General Sheridan was then announced, and was received with enthusiastic applause. He declined to speak, and took the chair vacated by General Wood. The Association then adjourned to meet in the afternoon at two o'clock.

At the appointed hour the Society formed at the Phillips House, and headed by the Newport Barracks band, marched to Music Hall to resume business. The meeting was called to order by General Sheridan, who announced committees as follows:

Committee on Time and Place—Generals A. S. Williams, G. P. Thurston, B. F. Scribner, Colonel C. H. Gano and Captain H. S. Tucker.

Committee on Memorials (next year)—General F. F. Brown, G. S. Warner and Chaplain William Earnshaw.

Committee on Publication—General H. M. Oist, Colonels H. H. Neff and Wm. E. Merrill.

Committee on Oration and Alternates—Generals Nathan Kimball, Post, T. H. Jordan, and Captains E. Buckingham and W. E. Crane.

Committee on Nominations—Generals Charles Croft, W. D. Whipple, J. D. Morgan, and Colonel David Putnam.

General Fullerton, Treasurer of the Society, presented his annual report, which shows the following general statement: Balance in Treasury November 15, 1871, \$268.91; receipts during the year, \$2,925.69; total, \$3,194.51; disbursements, \$2,632.84; balance in Treasury November 15, 1872, \$561.67.

A move was then made by Colonel Bates to make Phil Sheridan President of the Society, but this was overruled. A resolution was adopted constituting the Corresponding Secretary the custodian of the property of the Society during the intervals of its annual meetings.

Major C. H. Bates offered a resolution, which was adopted, inviting the citizens of Dayton to be present and participate in the exercises of the Society, and the banquet at the close of the session.

General G. P. Thurston offered a resolution instructing Chaplain Van Horn to prepare and publish the biography of General Thomas, as a companion volume to the Army of the Cumberland. The resolution was adopted.

The Society then adjourned and reassembled at Music Hall at 7:30 in the evening, when Major-General Wood delivered an able address. At the conclusion of General Wood's speech, numerous members of the Society were called on, and responded in a happy manner. At ten o'clock the meeting adjourned to meet again at 8:30 A. M. when they proceeded to the Soldiers' Home.

At the visit to the Soldiers' Home General McDowell made a brief address, which is thus reported: "I take a very deep interest in this institution. Not long ago, in New York, I was called upon to attend a meeting in Cooper Institute, to take action for the care of disabled soldiers, under the belief that the Government of the United States had been faithless to those who had served in the last war. This meeting was got up for the purpose of asking the State of New York to remove the stigma, to make some provision for the veterans that had gone forth from our limits. Henry Ward Beecher was present at the meeting, and made an eloquent speech in support of the movement. It seemed to be true on all sides. Reference was made to this very building. The Hotel des Invalides had been provided by the French for the care of her veterans. It was said that Kings and Emperors, monarchical Governments, had cared more for their soldiers; but I can say, without fear, that any one can prove to the contrary; that the Government of the United States has made a more liberal provision for her soldiers than any other Government. Whether that provision is sufficient or not, I will not judge; but

there is no question, whatever the spirit may be, the feeling toward old soldiers is that they will never be left to wait for anything. I wish that those in New York who have their feelings so hurt by these assertions could see this beautiful place occupied by your institution."

GENERAL MEADE.

THE Philadelphia Age, whose editor was a personal friend of General Meade, in a recent article thus speaks him:

In speaking of Meade we wish entirely to disclaim any political feeling which might be supposed to pertain to us as a Democratic journal. We knew General Meade as a soldier and citizen. We literally know nothing of him as a politician, save what we can state so authentically that we do not feel authorized to let any scruple of delicacy suppress it. He never verbally mentioned a political topic in our hearing. What we can repeat without, we think, any breach of confidence is from his own handwriting now before us. A word of explanation must, however, preface it to say why it was written. Of course a man of Meade's eminence was sometimes spoken of for the Presidency among politicians of both parties. Some blundering paragrapher started a statement that the Age was advocating General Meade for the Presidency. This was copied often enough to oblige us to say in our columns, as well as in a private note to the General, that while we had always done justice to his military services, we had never spoken of him or thought of him for a political position, and knew nothing of his political opinions. This left it open to General Meade, at that early date (March, 1871), to say as much as he pleased either to a journalist or a private friend on the subject. In a note to the editor of this paper he chose to say this for our personal information, but it has no character of privacy at this time to prevent us from publishing it:

"I am glad to hear you say that notwithstanding your long acquaintance with me, you are not able to define my party character, because this has been the position I have always endeavored to maintain; and though I am not without my own private views on public questions, I have never given any utterance to them in public, or allowed them to influence my official action as a soldier. I should esteem a nomination for the Presidency a misfortune. I am, and only desire to be, a soldier. I have always objected to politicians making themselves soldiers for political ends, and I equally condemn soldiers becoming politicians, so long as they are soldiers. I am in favor as between politicians and soldiers, for each 'shining on their own side.'"

This is all we can say authentically and of our own knowledge of General Meade's politics, and it is enough. It shows that he could not have any political clique to puff him or hang their fortunes on his fame. Of this, while living, he bore the disadvantage. His greatest achievement was grudged to him by the politicians, and, difficult as was the task, they tried to take from him as much of the credit of it as they could. It was difficult to do so. It was like trying to detract from David's share in the battle with Goliath. Meade's merit and share was as large, in his character of commander in the battle of Gettysburg. What help military commanders then got from Washington will be found in the volumes of testimony that tell of what was called "the Conduct of the War." Hooker, a splendid but impetuous soldier, had been goaded past all bearing by the inanity and folly of Halleck. For it was to him that Mr. Lincoln, in the crisis of Gettysburg, turned for aid! He announced this to Hooker in a curious and characteristic letter:

"June 5, 1863.

"Yours of to-day was received an hour ago. So much professional skill is requisite to answer it that I have turned the task over to General Halleck. . . . I would not take any risk of being entangled up on the river like an ox jumped half over a fence, and liable to be torn by dogs front and rear, without a fair chance to gore one way or kick the other."

To more appeals from Hooker, Mr. Lincoln replied: "June 16, 1863.

"Major-General Hooker.

"To remove all misunderstanding, I now place you in the strict military relation to General Halleck, of a commander of one of the Armies, to the General-in-Chief of all the armies. I have not intended differently, but it seems to be differently understood. I shall direct him to give you orders and you to obey them."

"A. LINCOLN."

Hooker having to fight both Halleck and Lee, threw up his command in disgust. We give now his own sworn testimony before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, volume 1, page 175.

"I may add my conviction that if the General-in-Chief had been in the rebel interest, it would have been impossible for him, restrained as he was by the influence of his Excellency the President, and that of the honorable Secretary of War, to have added to the embarrassment he caused me from the moment I took command of the Army of the Potomac to the time I surrendered."

We copy this fierce utterance, wrung from a fiery soldier's heart, not to cast any obloquy upon General Halleck, for he too is dead. He was a well-meaning, incapable man. But in justice to McClellan, Hooker, Meade, and other commanders in those days, it must not be forgotten how they were "pestered by a popinjay" and swaddled by politicians. It was not the least of General Grant's great good fortune that he came on the scene when the political farce called the "Conduct of the War" was played out, and Congress by a solemn act placed in his hands, as Lieutenant-General, the direction of the armies in which he was to pursue and destroy an enemy who was falling back sullenly, but like a lion before the hunters, from the great blow which Meade had dealt at Gettysburg.

We have no space to describe that battle. It was not, like many conflicts, fought over a vast sweep of country. The second and third days were fought in a narrow circle, under the very eye of the General.

Neither Meade nor Lee was present at the chance encounter of the 1st of July. The honors of that day belong to the dead Reynolds and to the living Hancock, selected by the unerring judgment of Meade to hurry to the scene and supersede the incompetent Howard. We leave it to the military critic to exhibit the supreme ability displayed by Meade from that day. How he instantly grasped the situation; how he rapidly concentrated his force and wrested from the genius of Lee the grand advantage for which both were striving—the advantage of position; how he retrieved the error of Sickles; how he promptly reinforced Slocum and restored his broken line; how he practised a *ruse de guerre* by which General Lee says in his report he was deceived and emboldened to make his last and desperate assault on the 3d.

Afterwards came the long series of skilful manoeuvres in which Lee strove to retort the defeat by reversing the advantages, and by drawing upon himself an attack on ground of his own choosing. There was, he hoped, yet time to retrieve the moral effect on the fortunes of the South and on the public opinion of the world by the disastrous issue of his great invasion. It was well for the cause of the Union that it was then in the hands of a man so brave that he was ready to fight or not to fight, as his own clear judgment dictated. He needs no vindication among us, his townsmen. We have but to look back to the time when we were shouldering unaccustomed arms and heaping up hasty defences, when the timid and the brave alike saw and felt the danger, and we stretched our eager ears to hear the news from Meade. A dark day it would have been if the telegraph had flashed to us the news, "Meade beaten, worsted, or checked." But he gladdened all hearts with the glorious news of victory. Lee was in full retreat. What fool then complained that Meade did not kill and eat the whole Confederate army?

MAJOR-GENERAL JOSEPH HOOKER, U. S. Army, acknowledges receipt of the following subscriptions to the fund for a monument to Major-General George H. Thomas:

Previously reported, \$4,120.50. Collected by General W. B. Tibbitts in Troy, N. Y.—From Messrs. John A. Griswold & Co., \$50; J. A. & I. T. Burden, \$50; Gilbert Bush & Co., \$50; Fuller, Warren & Co., \$25; J. L. Thompson's Sons & Co., \$25; Nehen & Calder, \$25; Eddy, Corse & Co., \$20; J. M. Warren & Co., \$25; W. & L. E. Gurley, \$20; Lane, Gale & Co., \$5; George M. Tibbitts, \$50; D. Thomas Vail, \$20; W. Howard Hart, \$25; E. Thompson Gale, \$25; Jonas C. Heatt, \$20; Hannibal Green, \$10; Cash, \$5; Total, \$450. Grand total, \$4,570.50.

THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movements of officers or vessels.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

NOVEMBER 20.—Midshipman G. W. Mentz, to the Wyoming. Mate Wm. Wotherpoon, to the Italianco. NOVEMBER 23.—Assistant Paymaster Frank H. Clark, as assistant to the inspector of provisions at the Navy-yard, Boston. NOVEMBER 25.—Lieutenant-Commander A. G. Caldwell, as executive of the Canandaigua, at Key West, Fla.

DETACHED.

NOVEMBER 20.—Ensigns J. B. Collins and H. F. Fickbohm, from the Naval Academy, and ordered to the Richmond. NOVEMBER 21.—Lieutenant-Commander John Weidman, from the command of the Pawnee, and placed on waiting orders. NOVEMBER 22.—Commander J. N. Miller, from the command of the Ossipee, and placed on waiting orders. NOVEMBER 23.—Lieutenant-Commanders Francis Morris and Horace Elmer, Lieutenant-Commanders Frank Courtis, Masters G. Blockinger and Charles A. Adams, Ensigns U. R. Harris and H. Winslow, Midshipmen Wm. F. Bulkley, Samuel P. Cowley, and Sidney H. May, Acting Assistant Surgeon Holmes Wiekoff, Chief Engineer A. J. Kiersted, Second Assistant Engineer H. E. Rhoades, Boatswain John A. Briscoe, Gunner Wm. J. Ferguson, and Sailmaker John C. Herbert, from the Ossipee, and placed on waiting orders. NOVEMBER 24.—Midshipman Marcus D. Hyde, from the Ossipee, and ordered to examination for promotion. Passed Assistant Paymaster J. Porter Loomis, from the Ossipee, and ordered to settle accounts. Lieutenant-Commander James R. Robertson, from torpedo duty at Newport, R. I., and placed on waiting orders. Master Huntington Smith, from the Michigan, and placed on waiting orders. Ensign C. H. Lyman, from the Naval Academy, and ordered to the Richmond, and, upon falling in with the Worcester, to report for duty on board that vessel. NOVEMBER 23.—Midshipman H. C. Nye, from the Naval Academy, and placed on waiting orders. NOVEMBER 25.—Lieutenant-Commander E. C. Merriman, from the Canandaigua, and ordered to command the store ship Pawnee, at Pensacola, Fla. First Assistant Engineer Robert Potts, from the Nipis on the 7th inst., and placed on waiting orders.

REVOKED.

NOVEMBER 20.—The orders of Carpenter John L. Davis, to the storeship Onward, and ordered to the Richmond.

PROMOTED.

NOVEMBER 20.—John L. Worden, to be a rear-admiral from the 20th of November, 1872, vice Rear-Admiral Winslow, but who remains on the active list, having received the vote of thanks of Congress.

PLACED ON RETIRED LIST.

NOVEMBER 20.—Medical Director John S. Messersmith, from the 28th day of June, 1872.

RESIGNED.

NOVEMBER 22.—Master Huntington Smith, to take effect May 15, 1873. Midshipman J. A. Post and Second Assistant Engineer M. N. Knowlton, to take effect November 23, 1872.

LEAVE EXTENDED.

NOVEMBER 22.—The leave of absence granted to Lieutenant-Commander John McGowan (now in Europe) on the 30th of June last, has been extended seven months, on account of ill health.

APPOINTED.

James Whitcomb Buell, of New York, an assistant surgeon in the Navy from the 21st of November, 1872.

LIST OF DEATHS.

In the Navy of the United States which have been reported to the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Navy and chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the week ending November 23, 1872:

Michael Daniels, seaman, November 9, U. S. steamer Worcester, at Porto Rico. James Card, seaman, November 18, U. S. steamer Wyoming.

CHANGES IN THE EUROPEAN STATION.

THE following are the changes in the European Station since June 7:

JUNE 8.—Lieutenant H. G. O. Colby, from the Plymouth to the Wabash. Lieutenant J. V. B. Blocker, from the Congress to the Wabash. Master R. F. Jasper, from the Wabash to the Plymouth. JUNE 13.—Master W. J. Burnette, from the Brooklyn to the Wabash. First Assistant Engineer E. P. McCartney, from the Wabash to the Plymouth. Second Assistant Engineer C. W. Rae, from the Plymouth to the Wabash. JUNE 16.—Midshipman A. J. Dabney, from the Wabash to the Wabash. Midshipman J. C. Cresnar, from the Wabash to the Wabash. AUGUST 2.—Master E. M. Day, from the Shenandoah to the Brooklyn. AUGUST 13.—Acting Boatswain John Smith, detached from the Brooklyn, and granted permission to come home. SEPTEMBER 23.—Captain A. C. Rhind, relieved Captain R. W. Shufeldt of the command of the Congress. Captain R. W. Shufeldt has resumed command of the Wabash. SEPTEMBER 29.—Commander T. S. Fillebrown, relieved Lieutenant-Commander T. L. Swann in command of the Wabash. The latter resumed duties on the Wabash. OCTOBER 14.—Midshipman S. A. Stanton, from the Congress to the Wabash. Midshipman A. J. Dabney, from the Wabash to the Brooklyn. Midshipman J. C. Cresnar, from the Wabash to the Brooklyn. Midshipman W. E. Sewell, from the Plymouth to the Wabash. OCTOBER 17.—Midshipman H. M. Jacoby, from the Wabash to the Wabash. Ensign H. T. Monahan, from the Wabash to the Plymouth. OCTOBER 18.—Mate W. W. Wotherpoon, of the Plymouth, ordered home.

VARIOUS NAVAL MATTERS.

THE U. S. sloop Portsmouth (4) will leave New York Saturday, Nov. 30.

THE U. S. steamer Ossipee (8), 828 tons, is now at the Brooklyn Navy-yard. Her officers, according to the naval orders of Friday, Nov. 23, are detached; but up to Nov. 26 these orders had not been received. The Ossipee left Payta, Peru, June 6, arrived at Valparaiso, Chile, July 6, sailed from there on July 13, and arrived at Rio, September 15, and left on the 23d, reaching New York November 17. She left Philadelphia for the Pacific fleet in 1866, and has been since that time flagship of both the North and South Pacific squadrons. She was refitted at San Francisco in 1870, and will close her six years' active service at the Brooklyn Navy-yard. On her way home the Ossipee lost three men, one by drowning and two by desertion; the former being unable to swim sank almost immediately after passing the gangway of the ship. On the way to New York from Rio unsuccessful search was made for a shoal reported to exist off the island of Fernando de Noronha, and a reef off Cape St. Roque. The report very probably originated with some merchant captain to save the insurance on his ship, an old trick of merchantmen. The search for the shoal and reef was most thorough, and there is no doubt of the falsity in the report of their existence. The Ossipee's battery consists of 8 guns, one 11-inch pivot, six 9-inch broadside, one 60-pounder pivot, also a battery of four 24-pounder howitzers for saluting purpose. Her officers are Commander J. N. Miller, commanding; Lieutenant-Commanders F. Morris, executive officer, H. Elmer, navigator; Lieutenant F. Courtis, Masters C. N. Adams, G. Blockinger; Ensigns U. R. Harris, H. Winslow; Midshipmen W. F. Bulkley, S. P. Comley, S. H. May, M. D. Hyde; Second Lieutenant of Marines J. C. Shaller, Past Assistant Paymaster J. P. Loomis, Chief Engineer A. J. Kiersted, Second Assistant Engineer H. E. Rhoades, Acting Assistant Surgeon H. Wiekoff; Boatswain J. A. Briscoe, Gunner W. J. Ferguson, Sailmaker J. C. Herbert.

THE U. S. steamer Kansas (4) arrived from Newport Nov. 21, at the Brooklyn Navy-yard, where she took five months' stores on board and sailed for Norfolk, Va., Friday, Nov. 29, where the officers of the surveying expedition will be taken aboard and without delay will proceed to Greytown, Nicaragua, probably touching at Key West en route. The Kansas at Greytown will be the base of supplies for the surveying party, and Aspinwall as the headquarters, where all mails, etc., will be received. The Kansas will occasionally make trips to that port for the purpose of forwarding and receiving all matter for the Nicaraguan expedition. The expedition will be divided into two or three parties, numbering twenty or thirty each, and will take different routes from the Atlantic coast, or rather harbor of San Juan de Nicaragua, one surveying the river San Juan, and the others starting above it, taking a course so as to strike the river again, the parties continuing on to Lake Nicaragua, and thence to the Pacific Ocean. The purpose, as is well-known, is to ascertain the best route for a ship canal through this section of the republic of Nicaragua. The Kansas, crew, officers and men, will number 150. She sent part of her battery ashore for want of space, and now carries 4 guns, one 20 pounder, 9-inch, and one 11-inch. The expedition party will contain several civilians including a mineralogist. The following are the officers of the ship as given by one of its officers: Commander A. V. Reed, commanding; Lieutenant-Commanders F. W. Dickens, executive, J. A. Chesley, navigator; Lieutenant F. G. Hyde; Masters, E. S. Prime, J. B. Briggs; Midshipman, R. D. Stevens; Past-Assistant Surgeon, H. N. Beaumont; Second Assistant Engineer, J. Godfrey; Captain's Clerk, F. A. Benson; Pay Clerk, J. S. Rider. The officers of the expedition are Commander, E. P. Lull; Lieutenant-Commander G. C. Schulze; Lieutenants, W. W. Rhodes, E. H. C. Leutze, J. W. Miller, J. F. Moser; Master, J. M. Hawley; Ensigns, K. Niles, J. H. Bull; Assistant Surgeons, J. M. Bransford, Greene; Civil Engineer, Mr. Menocal; Assistant Engineer, Mr. Crowell; Draughtsman, Mr. Pohless; Aid, Mr. Reiley.

THE U. S. steamer Colorado (45), bearing the flag of

Rear-Admiral Jenkins, has had her late orders relative to her movements near Chefoo for Shanghai, changed, and it is rumored that she will also carry the American ensign to Zanzibar.

THE *Kansas* arrived at New York, November 21, from Newport.

THE *Wyoming* sailed from New Bedford, November 25, for Hampton Roads and Key West.

THE *Worcester* arrived at St. Thomas, W. I., November 8, at St. John's, P. R., November 7, and at Samana Bay, San Domingo, November 12.

Two vessels of the European station, now in the East Mediterranean, have been ordered to visit Constantinople. They are probably now on the way thither.

THE U. S. steamers *Congress* and *Wachusett* arrived at Gibraltar on November 5, being forty hours from Cadiz. They will proceed to Tangier, Morocco, almost immediately.

THE U. S. steamer *Nipsic* arrived at St. Thomas, W. I., on November 11, and was to proceed next day to Samana, Domingo, to meet the flagship *Worcester*, which had left St. Thomas for Samana just before the arrival of the *Nipsic*.

THE U. S. steamer *Worcester*, flagship of the North Atlantic fleet, arrived at St. Thomas, West Indies, on the 3d inst., and at St. John's, Porto Rico, on the 7th. The *Ticonderoga*, of the South Atlantic fleet, arrived at Montevideo on the 15th of October, after visiting the ports of Santos and St. Catherine.

THE corvette *Haligoland*, of the Imperial and Royal Navy (Austria) is soon to visit the coast of the United States. She has on board the pupils of the National Academy, who are making a voyage for nautical experience and instruction. She will visit New York and some other of our naval stations.

THE new apparatus for instantly detaching boats from naval vessels is to be supplied to the boats of the U. S. steamer *Monongahela*, now being put in sea-going order at the Portsmouth Navy-yard. The apparatus consists of an elongated link, through which a bolt connected to the boat-fall is attached; by pulling a lanyard the link is tripped, and the bolt slips along a hole made sufficiently large for the head of it to pass through.

THE suit brought by the executor of the Colvocoresses estate against the Phoenix Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, is to recover \$10,000 insurance, not \$30,000, as has been incorrectly stated. The whole amount of insurance on the late Captain Colvocoresses's life is \$185,000. Suits have already been made against the Mutual, Metropolitan, New York Life, and Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Companies, to recover the amounts of the policies issued by them.

CAPTAIN C. H. B. CALDWELL, in a report to Rear-Admiral William Rogers Taylor, brings to favorable notice the conduct of James A. Rodney, ordinary seaman, and John O'Brien, seaman, of the U. S. steamer *Lancaster*. While furling sail, October 3d, Charles Beckman, seaman, fell from aloft and tumbled overboard, in his descent striking a gun, which inflicted a severe wound on his head. Rodney immediately jumped overboard and brought the wounded man to the grab rope and supported him there until a boat could be sent to his assistance. O'Brien rendering timely aid on the occasion. Rear-Admiral Taylor has forwarded the report to the Navy Department, and suggested that these men be commended in some public manner for their praiseworthy conduct.

DR. W. H. DALL, of the U. S. Coast Survey, recently read a paper before the California Academy of Sciences on a collection of antiquities which he had formed by exploring the burial places of the ancient inhabitants of Alaska. The paper is said to have been very interesting. A few years ago Captain E. G. Fast, of the U. S. Army, made a very extensive search in Alaska for similar records of a now forgotten people, and brought to New York a magnificent collection of specimens of curious armor, clothing, ornaments, domestic utensils, weapons, etc., of very high and peculiar value. It was quite unique and we should judge of considerable importance to ethnological studies; but it attracted much less attention than it deserved, and Captain Fast was never repaid for his outlay. The greater portion of his collection is now, if we are not mistaken, the property of Harvard University.

REAR-ADMIRAL JAMES ALDEN, of the U. S. Navy, was present November 23 at a review of the troops composing the garrison of Madrid. Subsequently the Admiral and a number of the officers of the American squadron accompanied the United States Minister, General Sickles, on a visit to the engineer and artillery barracks, and lunched with the engineers. Among the toasts given on the occasion was that of "Prosperity to the Great American Republic," in reply to which the past was invoked to show that Spain, in the time of Charles III, gave aid and assistance to the conquest of American Independence. The Admiral gave a toast to the "King of the Spaniards," and in his remarks expressed a desire of closer and more intimate relations between the two countries. In the evening General Sickles gave a dinner, which was attended by a large number of the most eminent Spaniards. Admiral Alden left Madrid on the evening of November 22 for Cartagena, whence his fleet was to sail for Villa Franca.

DESPATCHES have been received by the Navy Department from Rear-Admiral Wm. Rogers Taylor, commanding the South Atlantic station, dated at Rio de Janeiro, October 25: The *Lancaster*, then in port, expected to leave repairs completed and be ready for sea about November 1, or by the 15th. The latest intelligence from the *Wasp* was October 16, at which date she was at Montevideo. The *Ticonderoga* arrived at Santos September 26, and was there September 30—to sail next day for St. Catherine's. The health of the officers and crew of the entire command is reported good. The *Lan-*

caster was visited officially October 9 by the Portuguese Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Senor Mathias de Cavalho e Vasconillos, and was received with the usual ceremonies. On the 16th and 19th of October, at the request of the Brazilian authorities, the *Lancaster* was dressed with masthead flags, and fired a salute of 21 guns at noon, in honor, on the first occasion, of the baptismal day of the Empress of Brazil, and on the second occasion in honor of the baptismal day of the Emperor of Brazil. Thanks were duly returned for these observances.

THE following official commendation of the condition of the *St. Mary's*, Commander T. L. Harris, has been made to the Department by Rear-Admiral A. M. Pennock, by whom the vessel was inspected at San Francisco: "It affords me pleasure to state that the condition of the *St. Mary's*, after a long and active cruise, her fine order and perfect appointment in all that constitutes a model ship of war, in the appearance of her crew, condition of boats, hold, spars, and rigging, as far as developed by the examination, is highly creditable to her commander and officers, speaks well of the efficiency of her crew, and is a source of unqualified satisfaction to myself." The *St. Mary's* has been a most active cruiser on the Pacific station. During one of her cruises, extending over a period of nine months, she sailed over 19,000 miles; since then she has sailed from Talcahuana, Chile, to Honolulu, from there to Esquimalt harbor and Alaska, via the Aleutian Islands—thence to San Francisco, and was to have left the latter port for Norfolk, Va., via Cape Horn, November 20. Should she reach Norfolk in safety the distance traversed by her will foot up solid, round numbers. These old sailing craft make good seamen.

THE U. S. steamer *Tuscarora* arrived at Sandy Point, Straits of Magellan, October 5th, twenty-six days from Rio de Janeiro. The passage from Rio taking place during the equinoctial month, was very boisterous, six gales having been encountered before reaching the Straits. The ship is reported as having behaved admirably, was very dry, and proved herself an admirable sea-boat. She made Cape Virgins on the afternoon of October 4th, and came to anchor inside of Dungeness Point; got under way next morning, and with a fair tide reached Sandy Point at 5 P. M., making the run of 125 miles in eleven hours. Commander Belknap writes officially: Former reports speak unfavorably of her qualities in lying-to, but no vessel could have behaved better than this ship did while hove to in strong southerly gales, with the heavy seas running, made by winds from that quarter; the change is, of course, attributed to her new rig. Coal, wood, and fresh beef can be readily obtained at Sandy Point at reasonable rates, but, at that season, no other supplies. The colony is growing and the land being rapidly cleared, so that, in the course of two or three seasons, it is thought that vegetables will be plentiful. A wharf is to be built immediately, so that vessels can run alongside and coal direct from the coal-sheds. The *Tuscarora* expected to continue her passage through the Straits October 8th. The health of officers and crew continues unusually good, the sick-list having averaged only two during the previous six weeks.

THE special correspondent of the *Herald* at Nagasaki, Japan, dating on the 16th of October, supplies the following report of the accident which lately occurred, by collision, to the U. S. ship *Lackawanna* in the waters of Japan: The U. S. steamer *Lackawanna* (10) arrived here on Sunday morning, the 6th inst., coming from Yokohama September 28, Hiogo and Kobe and Osaka October 1. She steamed five hundred miles in and out through the three thousand beautiful islands of the inland sea of Japan. She anchored in the Bingenada during one night, in the Suwonada another night, and another in the Harima Nhadu. The vessel, under charge of the Japanese pilot Yoroohan, passed through the Simonosaki Straits and hugged a reef rather too closely in the Hirado Straits, on the western coast of Kiusin. The tide setting strongly some seven knots per hour, carried her against the hidden rock upon which the Pacific mail steamer *Oregonian* struck last spring. But little damage was done to the *Lackawanna*. She escaped with rolling up some thirty square feet of copper, embracing a strip extending from a line about six feet below the water line to a point about five feet above the keel. Commander Arthur, of the British iron-clad man-of-war *Iron Duke*, lately arrived from Chefoo, was kind enough to offer the services of his diver, clothed in a suit of submarine armor. With the help of four men, who furnished the air through air pumps, Brown, the diver, was enabled to stay under water about six hours a day, day after day for a week, putting on new sheets of copper. The repairs were thus accomplished without the aid of the dry dock.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, November 18, 1872.

General Orders No. 181.

All officers of the Navy when ordered to the Asiatic fleet will be entitled to an advance equal to three months' "sea pay," and when ordered to other sea duty to an advance equal to two months' sea pay, provided they have not received an advance of pay within the previous twelve months, the statement of the officer as to when he received the last advance being sufficient.

This advance will be paid by any purchasing pay officer on the presentation of his orders by any officer of the Navy.

GEORGE M. ROBESON,
Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, November 15, 1872.

Circular.

The attention of officers commanding stations and vessels-of-war is specially called to paragraphs 838 and 839 of the Navy Regulations. The officers above-named will inform the Department fully in relation to a.

cases where these paragraphs have been disregarded or overlooked—giving the names of persons permitted on board, the apartments they occupied, the reasons which led to a disregard of the Regulations, and all the facts pertaining thereto.

Whenever any special permission is granted by the Department to an officer commanding either a station or a vessel, to dispense, in any instance or to any extent, with the requirements of these paragraphs, no inferential extension or enlargement of such permission to other persons is allowable.

As the commander of a station is the only person who has a knowledge of intended movements, the presence of the families of officers leads to great official embarrassment and personal perplexity, and should be discouraged by all officers who expect to maintain their commands in a state of efficiency.

GEO. M. ROBESON,
Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY,
WASHINGTON, November 6, 1872.

Circular.

In making requisitions for utensils of any kind, to be furnished by the Naval Laboratory, medical officers are desired to be precise in giving measurements of capacity, and the kind and quality of every article required; and in naming medicines, to be equally careful in defining quantities, to conform to closed packages, as in common use at the shops and factories.

JAMES C. PALMER,
Surgeon-General U. S. Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY,
WASHINGTON, November 1, 1872.

Circular.

Assistant surgeons, candidates for promotion, shall present to the Board of Examiners, testimonials of proper habits from the medical officers with whom they have been associated on duty; also, a medical journal, in the candidate's own handwriting; this shall be a complete record of professional experience in the Navy, and shall contain detailed accounts of their most important or typical cases, with original observations upon the hygiene of the vessels and stations to which they may have been attached; and upon medical topography, hospitals, and other matters of professional interest on such stations, at home and abroad.

They are also required to be familiar with the details of duty specified in the "Instructions to Medical Officers."

JAMES C. PALMER,
Surgeon-General U. S. Navy.

MOVEMENTS OF FOREIGN WAR VESSELS.

BRAZILIAN—The corvette *Nietheroy* arrived at Rio October 6, from England.

THE *Lima Barros*, *Silvado*, and *Vital d'Oliveira*, the first two ironclads of the monitor type, and the latter a wooden sidewheel steamer, went to sea from Rio, October 7, bound southward. The gun-boat *Forte de Coimbra* also went to sea October 14.

ARRIVALS and departures at and from Rio de Janeiro:

OCTOBER 3.—The French ironclad frigate *Atalanta*, flagship of Rear-Admiral Baron Rouissin, arrived from France on the way to the Pacific; and October 20, the French frigate *Flore*, flagship of Rear-Admiral De Lapelin, arrived from the Pacific on the way to France. October 17, the French frigate *Venus*, flagship of Rear-Admiral Du Quilio, came in from the coast of Africa as flagship on the Brazilian station. On these several occasions the usual salutes and visits of ceremony were interchanged between the French and American Rear-Admirals. H. B. M. ship *Pylades* sailed for Montevideo, October 4.

ENGLISH—THE NORTH AMERICAN AND WEST INDIAN STATION.—The following ships were ordered to meet Vice-Admiral Fanshawe at the end of last month at Bermuda, to proceed on an evolutionary cruise, viz.: The *Danae*, *Fly*, *Raccoon*, *Spartan*, *Swallow*, and *Woodlark*. The squadron will be further augmented during the present month by the *Niobe* and *Plover*.

OFFICIAL COURTESIES TO THE MOON.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In last week's ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL was an account of an unsuccessful search by the U. S. C. S. vessel *A. D. Bach* for a shoal reported by a merchant vessel, and the commander of the *Bach* concluded that the merchant captain had run upon a sleeping whale, and mistaken it for a shoal. This reminds me of an amusing incident many years ago on board of a ship of war, to which I was attached. When going around Cape Horn, the ship heading to the northward and westward, about half-past two o'clock in the morning, a bright light was seen to the eastward. The officer of the deck called one of the midshipmen, and told him to report to the captain that a light was seen on the starboard quarter.

"Very well," said the captain, on receiving the report, "tell the officer of the deck to hoist a lantern at our mizzen-masthead."

The lantern was hoisted, but nothing more was seen of the strange light until sometime afterward, and much higher in the sky, the moon broke out. It was in its last quarter, and a thin crescent and nearly perpendicular. The strange light had undoubtedly been occasioned by a small section of the crescent showing when it first arose, through a narrow break in the clouds near the horizon. The officer of the deck was made a butt of by his messmates for many days afterward for hoisting a light to enable the moon to see to get up by.

LIST OF U. S. VESSELS.

The following is a list of vessels in commission, date when put in commission, names of their commanding officers, and stations when last heard from:

NORTH ATLANTIC STATION.

Worcester, 21 rate (15), February 27, 1871, Captain J. B. Creighton, flagship, Samana Bay, November 12.
Cannadagua, 2d rate (10), February 2, 1872, Captain William Bonetendorf, Key West, Fla.
Wyoming, 3d rate (6), November 4, 1871, Commander F. H. Baker, New Bedford, October 25.
Shawmut, 3d rate (3), March 16, 1871, Commander E. E. Potter, Key West, Fla., November 15.
Nipsic, 3d rate (3), December, 1869, Commander R. L. Phythian, Samana Bay, October 5.
Terror, iron-clad, 3d rate (4), December 8, 1869, Captain S. P. Quackenbush, Key West, Fla.
Pawnee, 3d rate (2), December 17, 1870, Lieutenant-Commander J. Weidman, store-ship, Pensacola, Fla.
Saugus, 4th rate (2), iron-clad, Commander A. E. K. Benham, Philadelphia, ordered to Key West, Fla.

SOUTH ATLANTIC STATION.

*Lancaster, 3d rate (22), August 26, 1869, Captain C. H. B. Caldwell, flagship, Rio de Janeiro, September 24.
Ticonderoga, 2d rate (11), February 6, 1871, Commander O. C. Badger, Montevideo, October 16.
†Wasp, 4th rate (1), May 11, 1865, Commander J. N. Quackenbush, Montevideo, October 16.

EUROPEAN STATION.

Wabash, 1st rate (45), October 24, 1870, Captain R. W. Shufeldt, flagship, Cadix, Spain, October 25.
Shenandoah, 2d rate (11), August 15, 1870, Captain C. H. Welles, Marseilles, France, November 17.
Brooklyn, 3d rate (20), August 24, 1870, Captain Andrew Bryson, Cadix, Spain, October 15.
Wachusett, 3d rate (6), June 1, 1871, Commander T. S. Fillebrown, Gibraltar, November 8.
†Plymouth, 3d rate (12), January 20, 1869, Commander K. R. Breese, Barcelona, Spain, November 15.
Congress, 3d rate (10), March 4, 1871, Captain A. H. Rhind, Gibraltar, November 8.

ASIATIC STATION.

Hartford, 3d rate (18), October 9, 1872, Captain E. Y. McCauley, flagship, en route.
Lackawanna, 3d rate (10), May 9, 1872, Captain Paul Shirley, Nagasaki, Japan, October 6.
Iroquois, 3d rate (6), August 11, 1871, Commander H. A. Adams, Hong Kong, China, September 24.
†Ashuelot, 3d rate (6), April 4, 1866, Commander R. R. Wallace, Chefoo, China, September 13.
†Monocacy, 3d rate (6), August, 1866, Commander O. F. Stanton, Yokosaka, September 5.
Saco, 3d rate (3), July 22, 1870, Lieutenant Commander E. Terry, Shanghai, China, September 29.
Yantic, 3d rate (3), August 13, 1872, Commander Byron Wilson, Palermo, Sicily, October 17.
†Idaho, 3d rate (7), wooden sailing vessel, October 3, 1867, Lieutenant-Commander J. C. Watson, store-ship, Yokohama, Japan.
Pulao, 4th rate (16), June 11, 1870, Lieutenant C. H. Rookwell, Shanghai, China, September 29.

NORTH PACIFIC STATION.

California, 2d rate (21), December 12, 1870, Captain J. M. B. Clitz, flagship, San Francisco, Cal., November 13.
Benicia, 3d rate (12), September 16, 1872, Captain A. G. Clary, San Francisco, Cal.
Saranac, 3d rate (11), January 21, 1870, Captain T. S. Phelps, Panama, October 17, sailed for San Francisco.
Narragansett, 3d rate (5), October, 1870, Commander B. W. Meade, Sydney, Australia, September 21.

SOUTH PACIFIC STATION.

Pensacola, 2d rate (22), October 4, 1871, Captain J. A. Upshur, Payta, Peru, October 22.
Omaha, 2d rate (12), September 12, 1872, Captain J. C. Fiebig, en route.
Tuscarora, 3d rate (6), May 16, 1872, Commander G. E. Belknap, Rio de Janeiro, September 1, sailed for Valparaiso, Chile.
Onward, 4th rate (3), wooden sailing vessel, November 3, 1868, Lieutenant-Commander Edwin White, store-ship, Callao, Peru.

SPECIAL SERVICE, ETC.

Powhatan, 2d rate (17), February 19, 1872, Captain Feires Crosby, Philadelphia, Pa., October 1.
Kearsage, 3d rate (3), September 26, 1870, Commander A. V. Reed, New York, November 21.
Tallapoosa, 4th rate, August 1, 1868, Lieutenant D. G. McRitchie, Navy-yard service.
Michigan, 3d rate (3), September, 1844, Commander George Brown, Detroit, Mich., September 6.
Frolic, 4th rate (8), January 18, 1872, Lieutenant-Commander C. M. Schoonmaker, Vice-Admiral S. C. Rowan's flagship, New York.

WOODEN SAILING VESSELS.

Constellation, 3d rate (10), November, 1871, Captain W. N. Jeffer, Annapolis, Md.
Portsmouth, 3d rate (4), November 4, 1872, Commander J. S. Skerrett, New York.
New Hampshire, 2d rate (15), Commander E. K. Owen, receiving ship, Norfolk, Va.
Ohio, 2d rate (5), receiving ship, Boston, Mass., Commander C. Hatfield, temporarily.
Vermont, 2d rate (16), Commander J. Watters, receiving ship, New York.
Independence, 3d rate (22), Commander B. Gherardi, receiving ship, Mare Island, Cal.
Potomac, 3d rate (18), Commander W. W. Queen, receiving ship, Philadelphia, Pa.
Sabine, 3d rate (36), Commander S. L. Breese, receiving ship, Portsmouth, N. H.
Santee, 3d rate (49), Paymaster J. Furey, in charge, gunnery ship, Naval Academy.
Dale, 3d rate (6), Paymaster J. Furey, in charge, practice ship, Naval Academy.

ORDERED AND EN ROUTE HOME.

Colorado, 1st rate (45), February 15, 1870, Captain C. H. Baldwin, Chefoo, China, September 29.
Alaska, 2d rate (12), December 8, 1869, Captain H. C. Blake, Chefoo, China, September 29, ordered to New York.
Oswego, 3d rate (8), October 27, 1866, Commander J. N. Miller, New York, November 17.
St. Mary's, 3d rate (16), February 12, 1870, Commander J. C. Harris, San Francisco, October 30, ordered to Norfolk.
Resaca, 3d rate (7), October 11, 1866, Commander N. Green, San Francisco, October 29.

FITTING OUT.

Monongahela, 2d rate (11), Portsmouth, N. H.
Richmond, 2d rate (14), Captain T. Pattison, Philadelphia, Pa.

* New crew and new officers June 26, 1872.
† Two or three changes of officers and crew since commissioned.
‡ Retitled since.
§ Received new officers and crews since date of commission.

AN imperial German squadron is now lying at Plymouth, England, whence it is to sail round the world, as an exercise in navigation for its officers and men, and is not expected to return before the spring of 1874. It is composed of one ironclad frigate the *Prince Frederick Charles*; a corvette, the *Elisabeth*, and the gunboat *Albatross*, built originally for the protection of the German flag against Asiatic pirates and since converted to heavier armament. The squadron is to be strengthened in South American waters by two corvettes, for the purpose of practicing the new sailing orders.

THE BOSTON FIRE.

VARIOUS statements and reports have been called forth from persons in official relations to the Army by the interest awakened in questions suggested by the great fire in Boston, which so recently destroyed seventy millions worth of property. General John Newton, of the U. S. Corps of Engineers, has, among others, been called upon for his opinion in regard to the expediency of blowing up buildings to avert such a conflagration, and the best method of doing so. His testimony was as follows:

"I do not care exactly to speak authoritatively on this subject, but I have no objection to stating what I think regarding it. There is no definite course to be pursued in such a matter, and I do not feel disposed to be considered now as recommending any. To begin with, I consider the use of gunpowder as an agent of demolition in such an exigency as entirely erroneous and ill-advised. Its effect would naturally be to literally 'blow up' and scatter the material of the buildings destroyed. Now, the real object to be sought would be to blow the building down, to drop the fabric in as heavy and compact a mass as possible upon its foundations. The principles of construction of all buildings, and particularly the modern style of lofty edifices, constitutes them a system of flues, into which the draft of wind and flames is drawn, and rages with great fury. Now, if all the material be prostrated by a heavy vertical fall, it will, as a consequence, pack down close, and a fire, should it ignite the debris, will burn more slowly than when subjected to draft. All the brick, stone, mortar, and iron will serve to smother the flames among the wood. For this reason the use of gunpowder would be injudicious, as its effect would be to scatter and extend the area of combustible debris.

"I think that either giant powder or dynamite would be the best agent to employ. They would make no scatter, but if properly applied would cut a building off close to its foundations or piers and let it fall.

"Giant powder is a combination of nitro-glycerine and earth of a peculiar kind. It is very powerful when exploded, and acts on a more limited and direct surface. Take, for example, an iron pillar supporting a building. I would put a ring of giant powder around its base and explode it, and the explosion would cut that pillar off as clean as though cut with a knife. If it is a wall that is to be destroyed, first pierce the wall, and in the same way surround the piers of masonry with the powder. It would blow the wall off clean where the powder was used and would let the upper parts of the wall fall vertically.

"What, in brief, would be your plan of destroying a building?"

"Oh, I should simply pierce the walls so as to leave piers of masonry or brickwork, and surround these and all the pillars or other supports of the building with giant powder. When that was ignited the building would go down. The piercing of the walls would be a matter easy of accomplishment, but you would require workmen a little familiar with the nature of the work to be done. A few of our sappers would go around a building like this and pierce the walls with their picks in a very short time."

"Would the blowing out of a front row of buildings be, under ordinary circumstances, a sufficient demolition?"

"No, I should think not. The fire would be apt to creep over the ruins, and perhaps ignite the rear of the rear row of buildings. If such a remedy were resorted to in the case of fire it would not do to hesitate about saving a house or two. It would never do to blow out a front row and run the risk of having the rear row of buildings catch fire and burn the next block. The only safe plan would be to blow down a whole block to create the necessary gap to check a great fire."

"Would you, in undertaking such a task, blow down all the buildings of an entire block simultaneously, or with one discharge?"

"Well, no, not exactly," responded the General. "That would be difficult, though not impossible; but it would be at least unnecessary to attempt so vast an instantaneous demolition, and the danger, in a time of so much excitement as a great fire, would be much increased by such a course. No, I should blow down one or two buildings at a time. It would not take a great while to level a block. Of course, in adopting this 'blowing-up' system of defence against fire, it would not do to commence too near the actual scene of the fire. It would be best to blow down buildings a block at least removed from the buildings actually on fire; so that the work could be done carefully and thoroughly."

"Would it be most advisable to lay powder trains in the basements of buildings to destroy them?"

"That would be a matter of expediency. I should lay my trains on the first floor, on the street level; or they might be laid about as effectively on this, the second floor. I should not go as low as the basement unless I found some special advantage in it, like the fewness or convenience of the foundation piers. In the event of a systematic organization being attempted to do this work, it would be necessary to select very competent engineer ability; and the officer or officers entrusted with the duty would have to be clothed with absolute power to act as their judgment prompted. The responsibility thrown on him would be very great, and there would be great efforts made to influence his decision and action, both by people who wanted him to blow up buildings and by those who would desire to prevent the destruction of their property."

"Do you think it would be advisable to have a separate corps of workmen to carry out the directions of the engineer?"

"So far as that goes, I should think the firemen would be able to do it. They are already organized and disciplined, and are used to 'stand fire.' It would be very easy to instruct them in the rudimentary branches

of manual sapping and mining, laying powder trains, igniting fuses, and so forth; and by the time such a crisis in the conflagration had been reached that it was necessary to blow up buildings, I should think the services of the requisite number of firemen could easily be spared from the line of their present duties as firemen."

The following is the official report of the Signal Service observer stationed at Boston, relative to the anemometrical and other observations taken by himself during the fire:

BOSTON, Mass., Nov. 18, 1872.

The Chief Signal Officer of the Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: In reply to your telegraphic despatch, received this morning, directing me to make a full report of the meteoric phenomena attending the recent great fire, I would respectfully say that the wind at this station during the progress of the fire varied from north-west to north, with a velocity of from five to nine miles an hour, weather being clear, cool and pleasant. On approaching the fire on the north or windward side, as close as the heat would allow, the indraught of air through the burning streets assumed the character of a brisk wind, probably sixteen or eighteen miles per hour, while the heat was so intense as to cause smoke, steam, etc., to be varied up in spirals to a great elevation. On the south or lee side the induced currents of air were very strong, probably thirty or thirty-five miles per hour, carrying the fire bodily to windward. This state of affairs appears to be the reverse of the Chicago fire, where the strength of the wind was sufficient to overcome the induced currents and the fire burned to leeward. It appears as if the high wind permitted the indraught to rise at a considerable angle after reaching the fire, leaving a large space of highly rarefied air in its front, inducing stronger currents to flow in, which, meeting the indraught, gave the spiral or whirlwind form to the ascending current.

During the fire a flock of ducks passed at a great height overhead, and the light reflected from their plumage made them appear as fire-balls passing rapidly through the air. Many who saw them called them meteors, and likened them to the balls of fire said to have been seen in the Northwest during the great fires in that region. As an example of the great heat diffused, I would state that during the night I exposed a thermometer in the observatory to the full glare of the fire, when it rose nearly five degrees, although placed upwards of two thousand feet from the burning district and dead to windward of it. No other phenomena occurred, the barometer rising slightly and the weather remained unchanged.

I have the honor to be, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. E. COLE,
Observer, Signal Service, U. S. A.

JOHN L. HODGE, late major and paymaster U. S. Army, has received a pardon from the unexecuted part of his sentence, and the order for his release was sent to the warden of the Albany Penitentiary by telegraph. The original sentence condemned him to be cashiered, to suffer ten years' imprisonment at hard labor, and to be kept in prison till he refunded the sum embezzled—nearly four hundred and fifty thousand dollars—but the President remitted the latter provision. He has served out about thirteen months of his term of confinement. Under the rulings of the law officers Major Hodge is, by his sentence, forever ineligible to appointment to any place of honor or trust under the United States.

President Grant having satisfied himself that the Department of Justice could not take preliminary measures for the pardon of Major Hodge, as this was a matter exclusively pertaining to the War Department, Hodge having been convicted of the embezzlement of \$450,000 by a general court-martial, and sentenced to ten years' confinement in the Penitentiary, had a conference with Secretary Belknap and other gentlemen in high official position upon the subject. The President was, it is understood, moved to this act of clemency by the belief that Major Hodge was drawn into the defalcation by the intrigues of others rather than by any premeditated intention of his own to defraud the Government, and that his testimony might be secured for the prosecution of others through whom the money taken by him was expended. His frank acknowledgment of the crime and his voluntarily making all reparation in his power by surrendering his private property, and in which his wife insisted upon joining him with her own individual property, excited for him and his family the sympathy of not only officers of the Army, but of many others in prominent public and social positions, who were acquainted with all the facts of the case. His conduct at the trial, in declining to take any technical advantage, and also his deportment since his confinement, have somewhat contributed to his liberation. His wife, who is in very delicate health, and their children, made earnest appeals to the President, which were not among the least of the efforts in his behalf, and which strengthened the President in his disposition to extend the pardoning power.

The following is the order in the case:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, November 25, 1872.
General Court-martial Order No. 33.

The President of the United States directs that the remainder of the sentence to confinement in the case of John Ledyard Hodge, late paymaster U. S. Army, published in General Court-martial Order No. 21, of October 9, 1871, be and it is hereby remitted. He will be released from confinement accordingly.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

James Wm. Cosgrove, an enlisted minor, was recently discharged on *habeas corpus* by Judge Blatchford, U. S. District Court, Southern District of New York, on petition of his father, he being under age, of delicate physique, and having enlisted without the knowledge or consent of his parents.

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in Europe.

TRANSFER.—A FIRST LIEUTENANT OF AR-
TILLERY desires to transfer with a First Lieutenant of Cavalry.
For information address A. W., office of ARMY AND NAVY
JOURNAL.

DR. ELLIOTT COUES, assistant surgeon U. S. Army,
has just published "A Key to North American Birds,"
containing a concise account of every species of living
and fossil bird at present known from the continent
north of the Mexican and United States boundary, illus-
trated by 6 steel plates and upwards of 250 wood-cuts.
We have not yet seen the work, but judge it to be a
very valuable one from the description given in the
prospectus, and hope to be able to notice it more fully
when we have had an opportunity to examine it.

THE commandant of the Marine Corps, in his annual
report, states that the conduct and efficiency of the
troops have, during the past year, been such as to meet
approbation. The general return of the Corps shows
2,293 enlisted men in the service, 1,000 of whom are on
board vessels in commission, and the remainder on duty
at the several shore stations. The recommendation is
renewed for an appropriation for erecting quarters at
Annapolis, Pensacola, and Norfolk, where there are no
barracks—especially at Norfolk, where the marines are
quartered on board the hulk *St. Lawrence*. The Corps
is still 200 short of its legal complement, occasioned by
desertions, notwithstanding efforts have been made to
recruit by establishing stations in the interior. De-
sertions, which it was supposed, were caused by a re-
duction of pay in July, 1871, are increased rather than
diminished, although the pay has been restored to what
it was at that date. The matter of desertion, which is
so prevalent in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, is
suggested as deserving the serious attention of Congress.

THE joint occupation of San Juan Island has
been terminated by the withdrawal of the British
troops, in accordance with the decision of the Em-
peror of Germany on the question of boundary.
Socially, our officers will regret the departure of
their British associates, however they may rejoice
at the establishment of our disputed title to the
Island. We observe that some of our journals are
disposed to regard this withdrawal as something
very commendable in the British authorities; on
the contrary, to us it seems, in all good nature be it
said, to but emphasize the prolonged injustice of
an occupation which never should have been un-
dertaken, and to demonstrate the forbearance our
own Government has shown in the matter from the
first.

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1872.

Office, No. 39 Park Row, New York.

SUBSCRIPTION, SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expres-
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to fifteen cents, and the present registration system has been found by
the postal authorities to be virtually an absolute protection against losses
by mail. All postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever re-
quested to do so.

THE promotion of Brigadier-General IRVIN Mc-
DOWELL to the major-generalship left vacant by
the death of General MEADE is the wise solution of
the question which the letter-writers and quidnuncs
have surrounded with so many difficulties of their
own imagining. It has been obvious to us from
the first that this must be the result. Glad as we
should be, in common with so many, to see other
soldiers of our Army who are honored and loved
receiving a promotion to which they are justly en-
titled, no sufficient reason has been presented for
setting aside the rights of seniority in their behalf.
If it was easy to show why others should be pro-
moted; it was not so easy to show why General Mc-
DOWELL, who had the right of precedence, should
not be promoted also. This is the conclusion to
which the President has justly come, after patiently
hearing all that was to be said by those who had
an opinion to offer on this subject. It is a compli-
ment to our Army that he should have found him-
self suffering so much from an *embarras de richesses*
when it came to consider personal claims.

General McDOWELL, our new major-general,
needs no introduction to our readers. A classmate
of BARRY, of the Artillery; NICHOLS, of the Ad-
jutant-General's Department; EASTON, of the Quar-
termaster's Department; GRANGER, of the Infan-
try; and SMITH, of the Cavalry; of BEAUREGARD,
HARDEE, SIBLEY, JOHNSON, and REYNOLDS, among
the Confederates, he was graduated in 1838 from
the Military Academy, standing No. 23 in a class of
45. Aide-de-camp to WOOL during the war with
Mexico; in command during the Rebellion of the
Departments of Northeastern Virginia, of the
southern defenses of Washington, of the Army of
the Potomac in its first battle, and subsequently of
a corps in that Army, and of the Army of the Rap-
pahannock at a later date, he has had his full share
of the practical experience of war, and none under-
stand better its theory and philosophy, or are more
thoroughly acquainted with the history and pecu-
liarities of our own special service.

The promotion of General McDOWELL is follow-
ed by his transfer to the Department of the South,
with headquarters at Atlanta; Brigadier-General
TERRY returns to his former command, the Depart-
ment of Dakota, and Major-General HANCOCK at
last receives the command to which his rank enti-
tles him, being transferred to the command of the
Military Division of the Atlantic as the successor of
General MEADE.

General HANCOCK's many friends at the East will
be glad to greet him once more, and the Army will
receive with satisfaction the news of his transfer to
a position more becoming his rank and distinguish-
ed reputation as a soldier. General TERRY will
once more have opportunity to try issue with the
Sioux, and we hope he may be as successful in ad-
ministering the affairs of the Northern Department
as he was before.

We append the General Order announcing these
changes:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Nov. 25, 1872.

General Orders No. 100.

By direction of the President, Major-General Han-

cock is assigned to command the Military Division of
the Atlantic and the Department of the East.

Brigadier-General Terry is transferred from the De-
partment of the South to the Department of Dakota.

Major-General McDowell is assigned to command of
the Military Division of the South, hereby re-es-
tablished, and of the Department of the South, headquar-
ters Louisville, Ky.

By command of General Sherman.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant-General.

THE machinery of ships of war is the subject of an
article in the last number of Mr. REED's quarterly
magazine, "Naval Science." The extent and varie-
ty of the mechanical arrangement in our ships of
war is alluded to, and the inevitable tendency to add
to its complexity is explained by reference to the
necessity of providing for the increasing weight of
guns mounted on shipboard, and of still further dis-
pensing with manual labor in order to secure proper
celerity of movement in handling the vast bulk of
our modern men-of-war. Attack by ramming and
the moving torpedo have introduced formidable
dangers to which slow and unwieldy ships will be
peculiarly liable. The attainment of high speed is,
therefore, one of the first objects to be aimed at in
the design of ships intended to fight at close quar-
ters, and as injury from either ram or torpedo is re-
ceived below the water-line, the additional protec-
tion from shot or shell given to the machinery by
placing it below the water-line is not, in Mr. REED's
opinion, sufficient to counterbalance the disadvan-
tages attending its arrangement in this way; one of
the most serious of these disadvantages being inter-
ference with the subdivision of the compartments.
Unarmored ships, intended for the protection of
commerce, also require high speed, and it is impera-
tive that their machinery should be kept as far as pos-
sible below the water-line, and that the machinery
compartments be subdivided, in view of the destruc-
tive effects of modern shells against unprotected
vessels.

Hence, to meet the exigencies of modern warfare
we require in ships, armored or unarmored, "1st.
Great range of power coupled, as a matter of course,
with economy of fuel at all speeds. 2d. The great-
est attainable security from even temporary dis-
ablement in action. 3d. Facility for rapid repair
and disconnection of disabled parts." The practical
limit of the power of the engine is determined by
the steam-producing capabilities of the boiler. For
armored ships the oval form of high-pressure boiler
is recommended notwithstanding the disadvantage
of cylindrical furnaces, as being more easily stowed,
and enabling advantage to be taken of the full depth
of the hold to give good steam power without mak-
ing a shell of objectionable dimensions.

For unarmored ships, boilers not liable to exten-
sive or permanent injury from projectiles should be
provided, and boilers built up entirely of tubes are
suggested. These have been successfully used on
land in a variety of forms, are now being introduced
to some extent on shipboard, and are peculiarly
adapted for use in ships of war. Furnaces capable
of giving a high rate of combustion could be adopt-
ed, and the comparative safety of tubular boilers in
action would give increased confidence to stokers
and engineers, who now have the most unenviable
post in vessels charged with high-pressure steam,
and liable at any moment to be perforated by some
projectile. Fans for supplying air to the furnaces, and
such as have been used to some extent in our Ameri-
can Navy, are recommended, on the ground that by
contributing to increased rapidity of combustion
they lessen the boiler space, and give greater room
for the capacious cylinders required in order to real-
ize the full benefits of high-pressure steam, for the
carrying of which the "tubulous" boiler is special-
ly adapted.

Engines working at a pressure of at least 60 lbs.
should be adopted for all the more important ships,
Mr. REED thinks, and as to the relative merits of
the ordinary expansive engine and the compound
engine, it is mentioned as "a significant fact that
the compound engine would not compete suc-
cessfully with the ordinary type in the Navy
until worked with steam of about double the pres-
sure of that used with the simple engine." As to the
use of the compound engine in naval vessels Mr.
REED is in doubt, though he regards as only a ques-
tion of time its introduction, as an engine pecu-
liarly adapted for high-pressure steam, into the mer-
chant and mail services, and in special service ships

attached to the Navy. Its proved economy in fuel is its only recommendation for modern ships of war, and equally good results can, he believes, be obtained with simple engines, at what has now become the ordinary working pressure. The compound engine is extremely liable to total disablement in action because of the inter-dependence of the cylinders and the dissimilarity of the spare gear, owing to the varying dimensions of the cylinders, slide-valves, etc. The unmanageable size of some of the principal parts are further objections to its adoption. The objection of great weight, Mr. REED thinks, is of less moment. The maximum strains upon the mechanism being far less, the quantity of metal required is proportionately less. Apart from the reservoirs and the additional spare gear, no inconsiderable item, there is no great difference in the weight of well-designed 60 lbs. pressure engines of the two types, when the same capacity for expansion is given.

When armor protection admits of bringing parts of the engines above the water-line, vertical or inclined engines can generally be introduced, and these readily admit of protecting water-tight compartments being provided. Twin screws still further facilitate the subdivision of compartments so essential to prevent the disablement of the means of propulsion. Where the machinery is much exposed to projectiles Mr. REED is inclined to divide the cylinder capacity between two pairs of simple expansive engines, with parts interchangeable, even at the risk of loss in economy of fuel. Two compartments of reasonable size could thus be secured, in place of one of objectionable length. One pair of engines could be placed abaft the boiler-rooms as usual, and the other pair between the forward and after boiler-rooms. The after engines would not be affected by accidents to the forward engines, though serious injury to the after pair would involve the risk of total disablement. The probabilities are, however, in favor of the connection between the propeller and the forward engines remaining intact, as a shaft of the large size required in this case, placed in the position it would occupy, would stand a good chance of escaping fatal injury. A similar arrangement might be carried out with twin screws.

A HIGHLY interesting trial was made on Wednesday, November 21, at the United States Torpedo Station, Goat Island, off Newport, of the torpedo boat invented by Mr. J. L. LAY. The experiment was conducted under the direction of the Navy Department, and in the presence of a large and distinguished board of officers, convened for the purpose. The following is the official list of the members of the board; we noticed that all these officers, with perhaps one or two exceptions, were present at the trial: Of the Navy.—Admirals RODGERS, CASE and WORDEN; Commodore HOWELL; Captains WHITING and DEWEY, Commanders TRUXTON, KIRKLAND, MARVIN, and SIMPSON. Of the Army—Generals BARNARD, WRIGHT, TOWER, WARREN, CULLOM and ABBOT, all of the Corps of Engineers.

There were also present a distinguished body of foreign officers and diplomatic attachés, including General A. DE GORLOFF, of the Imperial Russian Staff, Colonel VICTOR DE NOUE, Major BERMUDEZ, Lieutenant-Commander PILON, M. G. A. SPAROFFSKY, etc., of the French, Spanish, and other services. Mr. J. D. CLUTE, the builder of the boat, Mr. R. W. RAYMOND of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, Mr. MCGUIRE of the *New York Herald*, and a considerable number of other gentlemen, invited by Mr. WM. A. TORREY of New York, the business manager, completed a large and brilliant assemblage.

The party was received with courtesy and hospitality at the post on Goat Island, where, at 12:30 P. M. (high tide), the great occurrence of the day took place. The board appointed for the purpose has made a preliminary report of the results of the trial, which was, we believe, considered satisfactory as a whole, demonstrating the entire controllability of the vessel. Further experiments are to be made after replacing one large tank in the vessel by three smaller ones. Mr. LAY's novel craft is of cigar shape, tapering at both ends, and is constructed of iron. The length is 25 feet, depth 2 1-2 to 3 feet. She floats nearly submerged, her course being distinguished by two small staffs rising above the water

and from which lanterns can be swung at night. The motive power is furnished by carbonic acid and her movements are directed by insulated wires connected with a battery and which unroll from a reel in a boat. We have a full description of the vessel and the details of her trial, which reaches us too late to be made available this week. The particular boat employed has been purchased by the Government, and it is said that Mr. LAY will now build a larger one, to run three miles at twelve knots, and to plunge before the explosive concussion, so as to strike an enemy's vessel further below water-line.

The possible applications of this novel craft in harbor and river defence or in offensive warfare on foreign coasts or on the high seas have yet to be exploited. Mr. LAY has suggested a good many, but others will doubtless arise; and particularly it will have to be carefully considered what the enemy will do. The Navy officers are of opinion that the chance of hitting such a boat during her advance would be very small on shipboard. Single guns firing solid shot would almost certainly not do it. A ship might protect herself at anchor, or even during an advance, by a netting or railing, far enough from the hull (ten or fifteen feet would probably be sufficient) to render the explosion of the torpedo innocuous. In that case, Mr. LAY's plan would be to start two torpedo-boats, one after the other, and, after the explosion of the first had made a breach in the outer barrier, to drive the second through the breach upon the ship.

SOME time since Colonel and Brevet Major-General HENRY J. HUNT of the Fifth Artillery obtained a decision in the Court of Claims giving him the increase of pay provided for by the act of Congress of 1865, increasing the commutation of rations from thirty to fifty cents to all officers not above the rank of brevet brigadier-general. Under this law Brigadier-General HUNT, claiming that a brigadier was no higher than a brevet brigadier, applied for the increase. The Pay Department took the opposite view, and refused the application. The Court of Claims sustained the position of General HUNT, and gave him judgment for the increase asked. The Supreme Court, in a recent decision of an appeal taken from the Court of Claims, reverses the judgment, holding that in the construction of the statute the duty of the court is to ascertain the intention of the legislation only, and that while in strict military construction there may be no difference between the two ranks, in practice there is, as an officer requires to be promoted before he can pass from brevet rank to full rank. In any case it is said that it is clear that Congress intended to make a distinction between the two, else it would have said simply, "brigadier-general," and would not have mentioned the rank of brevet. The Chief Justice delivered the opinion.

THE volunteer militia stationed in the vicinity of Boston have been doing constant duty in the region of the late fire day and night for the past three weeks. As a matter of course, there have not been wanting curious citizens and gaping country visitors to strongly object to the introduction of the precision of military rule, and some of these have disputed the right of the Mayor and civil authorities generally to employ a military guard, in view of the fact that the city is provided with a civil force of policemen. This complaint is both ungracious and unjust, and expresses a popular but silly prejudice against the order and certainty of military method and organization, which are imperatively required in times of tumult or disaster. In the case of the Chicago fire, where regular and volunteer troops rendered the highest service, like criticism was indulged in; but there, as in Boston, the result justified the means availed of. To us the lesson is palpable enough. It is that in this country we especially need both the moral and material force and consolidation which military organization gives, and we are confident that the next decade will not close before the public are brought around to the same way of thinking.

We felicitate the people of Boston on the fact that in the time of their dire extremity of fire they had an organized militia force, and at command the marines and sailors of the Navy-yard to supplement their overworked police. If the troops had not been called into requisition, how long could the

"regularly-paid guardians" of Boston have preserved order in the "burnt district," let alone the other parts of the city? The citizens of Boston may well rejoice (as the better portion doubtless have done) that at such a time it had a militia ready, self-sacrificing, and willing to come to their assistance. The employment of these troops restored order, maintained it, and saved not only property of great value, but also the lives of many over-curious persons. The duty, from its peculiar nature, was difficult, yet it was smoothly and harmoniously performed. There was no clash of civil and military authority, no direct acts of insubordination on the part of the troops, no disputes between the soldiery and policemen; but instead perfect harmony and a common purpose to do the present duty and do it well. From the reports which have thus far reached us, we feel well satisfied with the duty performed by the volunteer militia of Boston, and feel sure that in spite of ignorant criticism it will receive the public recognition which it deserves.

CERTAINLY all the great military powers continue to recognize the importance of cavalry. From the *Golos*, the *Gazette* of Moscow, and the *St. Petersburg Gazette*, we find corroborative evidence to show that Russia in particular is making special preparations in cavalry just now. It is true that her active infantry is also to be swelled by ten new divisions or forty regiments, drawn, however, from existing garrisons and reserves, probably aggregating 120,000 men, and the field artillery will have a proportional increase; but she seems to be contemplating even the possibility of a conscription of horses in case of sudden need. At any rate, a new "census of horses" has been ordered. This project seems the stranger from the fact that Russia is said to have twenty millions of horses on its soil, while Germany has only two millions; but the latter are probably in better condition, or more promptly available for war. And though in smaller ratio to the population they are in larger ratio to the territory to be defended. Germany has 690 horses to the square mile, Austria 313 and Russia 160, and the greater part of Russia's twenty million horses are in Siberia and in the eastern and southeastern provinces, remote from the scene of probable conflict. Still Russia has a quarter of a million Cossacks, who may all be reckoned excellent horsemen, and ready with their horses for immediate service; and it is not surprising to learn therefore that the regions of the Ural and the Don, as well as those of the Caucasus, of Bessarabia and Archangel, are excepted from the proposed liability to conscription. It is well-known that several Russian officers believe that the fortune of the next great struggle will incline to that antagonist which shall put into the field the most and best artilleryists and mounted-riflemen. Doubtless it is to some such theory that the present Russian anxiety to have horses in abundance is to be traced; and it is also worthy of notice that Prussia seems to be paying rather more attention to cavalry than ever before, as if contemplating the increased use of this arm.

OUR correspondent this week who declaims against the lack of intellectual activity in the Army perhaps goes too far, and judges from not the widest observation of our officers; but he yet presents facts which are well worth consideration, however Utopian his plan for remedy may seem to some. As we have before argued, the great necessity of our Army is the stimulus and encouragement of the younger officers of the line and staff to improve in professional knowledge. We are not prepared to go to the lengths of the Prussian system in this country, to whose genius and habit that system is certainly not in all respects adapted, but we should yet like to see here aroused a corresponding ambition for improvement in military acquirement, and the arrangement of the rewards of the service with reference to that end.

It is to be hoped that the pardon of Paymaster HODGE by the President may result in securing from him testimony that will lead to the punishment of those who have offered the temptation that led him into crime. Speculation in Wall street is so nearly allied to crime that it is not always easy to say where the dividing line is passed, and a little wholesome experience will teach "the street" a becoming caution in dealing with the custodians of public money that may save the Treasury from loss and prevent some sore-tempted official from taking the last fatal step in the path of crime and dishonor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

ARMY NURSES.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Not long after the war became a fixed fact in our experience, it was felt that no adequate provision could be made by the Government to provide hospitals in the South for the raw soldier boys far away from home and all that home usually brings of comfort to the sick; all that fond hearts could desire to make a soldier's life tolerable was devised, and many comforts went forward to the front through private hands or the Sanitary Committee. The idea that nurses for the sick were a great need, especially in the Western Army, gave rise to an attempt to form a corps of women who should take charge of the hospitals at Cairo, where much sickness prevailed. A call through the Chicago papers sufficed to fill "Bryan Hall" to its utmost capacity. Probably 1000 at least, mostly of women, assembled, and a large number volunteered to go forth in the great work of nursing the sick or wounded in the hospital wards where they might be needed.

An elderly physician informed the writer (who was one of the principal originators of the work) that no woman ought to go who was under thirty years of age, and if forty, so much the better. This announcement to the assembled crowd came like a wet blanket upon the hopes of not a few, especially as there were present several school teachers and others in their teens, who fancied that it was their "mission." We remember how a maiden lady, say between twenty and twenty-five, could hardly be persuaded that her "mission" might lie in some other direction, as a matronly person assured her that it was often a delicate situation to be in for a young person to see soldiers' bare legs in a hospital, and sometimes to be cut off!

"Well," said she, "I s'pose they'll have the decency to cover them up!" Imagine a wounded soldier knowing or caring whether he was covered or not, in the agonies of pain! However, one committee selected six middle-aged women, and appointed one, a widow, Mrs. Yates, to be the head of the band, sending them forth with our benediction and hearty good wishes for success in their arduous work.

Naturally enough, army surgeons were not predisposed to look with favor upon a nurse of this kind. Woman's ready sympathy with suffering, when brought in contact with a doctor's orders and prescriptions, in their experience, had led them to believe that a patient's feelings or whims would get precedence of their own directions, and this, perhaps, with good reason. But the principle had been settled by authority delegated to the philanthropist, Miss Dix, from Washington, and so the surgeons had to grin and bear it.

Many are the anecdotes we have heard in the Western Army of the varied success of our corps of nurses, but in one thing, certainly, half of them won the admiration of gallant officers, who became so much attached to them that they clung to them for life, ever after! The nurses were not long in learning the lesson that in the minutest as well as the greatest particular, they were to obey orders explicitly, and without variation. How soothing to convalescent soldiers, many of them raw lads, was the look, tone of voice, and gentle hand of woman, hastening back the health to the pallid cheek, we need not say. Certainly from the experience of our army, under proper regulations and given circumstances, we will, if need again arises, have our army nurses, just as we will our "Christian commission," and our "Sanitary Commission," and posterity will do justice to the noble women who breathed the impure air of army hospitals, solely from the motive of doing good, with no promise of pensions from Government, or reward beyond the honor of serving.

Among those who won for themselves the reputation of Florence Nightingales, was Miss Mary Safford, of Cairo, so well known on the hospital boats of the Mississippi, and who was compelled to seek a foreign clime to recuperate a broken-down constitution.

"Mother Bickerdyke" stands also as high as woman can in the affections of thousands of Uncle Sam's boys, officers and men, as "just the dearest old mother the Lord ever made."

Constituted by nature as possessing a strong, powerful frame, and of iron nerve, with a heart tender and kind and loving, she was, perhaps, as successful, if not more successful, all through the war, than the best. She could lift and carry a poor boy, when needed, and roll up her sleeves to any duty, however arduous, with a ready will and with a care of the most tender sensibility. If a hospital steward was found (and one was) to appropriate slippers or shirts, or other wear sent by the Commission for the boys, she could strip him at once, and see that nothing was misappropriated. And if the steward dared to cook the few eggs obtained for the ward, and place them instead on the surgeon's table, she was bold enough to walk in and carry the plate just where they belonged.

Her struggle to humor the fancy of a poor chap in a Memphis hospital, by allowing him to have a few eggs to handle and place under his pillow at night and keep till he was permitted to eat them, and of another who kept some raw potatoes nearly all day, fondling them in hopes he would get strong enough, by and by, to eat them, and who kept them in his cap at night under the bed, till removed by the doctor, in spite of the poor fellow's prayers and tears, we remember, and how she conquered in the end; but we also remember her raising a small herd of cattle to furnish milk for the sick in ambulances, all the way in Sherman's march to the sea, and when, at Pittsburg Landing, she could not get certain things needed for the hospital, on account of red

tape, she essayed to find General Grant, and she did, in his tent, smoking and writing. She made known her errand at once. The general kept on writing and puffing, but answered that he could not interfere with those whose duties were to attend to such things.

"Well but, General, you see we must have them. I say, we must have them."

"Must?" said the General, looking up curiously at Mother B. "Must? (with a twinkle in his eye). Well, they that rock the cradle rule the world, so, I suppose you must have them." And she did.

These facts do not appear in the volume of the "Women of the War," nor do the following lines, written by some author, whose name does not appear, entitled:

SCENE IN A HOSPITAL.

Three years! I wonder if she'll know me?

I limp a little, and left one arm

At Petersburg; and I am grown as brown

As the plump chestnuts on my little farm;

And I am as shaggy as the chestnut burr,

But ripe and sweet within, and wholly hers.

The darling! how I long to see her!

My heart outruns this feeble soldier's pace;

But I remember, after I had left,

A little Charlie came to take my place.

Ah, how the laughing three-year's old

(His mother's eyes) will share their pleased brown eyes' surprise.

Sure they'll be at the corner watching!

I sent them word that I should come to-night;

The birds all knew it, for they crowded round,

Twittering their welcome with a wild delight,

And that old robin, with the halting wing,

I saved her life three years ago last spring.

Three years! Perhaps I am but dreaming,

For, like the pilgrim of the long ago,

I've tugged a weary burden at my back

Through summer's heat and winter's blinding snow,

Till now I reach my home, my darling's breast,

Then I can roll my burden off and rest.

§ When morning came, the early rising sun

Laid his light fingers on a soldier sleeping

Where a soft covering of bright green grass

O'er two lowly mounds was lightly creeping,

But waked him not. His was the rest eternal,

Where the brown eyes reflect a love supernal.

E. B. T.

ST. HELIER'S, ISLE OF JERSEY, GREAT BRITAIN,
November, 1872.

THE ARMY INTELLECTUAL INACTIVITY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In the *Christian Union* of July 31, appears an article entitled "West Point," one clause of which I propose to notice. The whole article is worthy the earnest consideration of every person interested in the welfare of the Army, exhibiting as it does, in the most impartial language, some of the most glaring defects of the system of instruction in vogue at the Military Academy. It is to be sincerely hoped that the able report of the last Board of Visitors will awaken those who have the controlling power, to the necessity of speedy and thorough reforms in the institution. After the numerous expositions of its faults, it is only remarkable that nothing has yet been done to correct them.

The clause to which I have referred reads as follows: "On the other hand, there are a great many graduates of West Point who are perhaps more ignorant and uncultivated than any class claiming to be educated in the country. They go through life imbued with the belief that the course of study at West Point is the embodiment of all human knowledge, and that by some mysterious educational baptism, they have attained to a wisdom and excellence not given to ordinary men. The officer who upon entering the service closes his books and devotes the remainder of his life to the acquisition of ignorance, content to rest his claims to honor and distinction upon the fact that he is a 'graduate,' is unfortunately too common in our Army."

Behold here absolute truth! It is safe to say that a majority of the graduates abandon all study on leaving the Academy, thenceforth making no effort to advance in any branch of knowledge. Even a correct use of their native language is not attempted by many. Does being a "graduate" exempt them from this necessary accomplishment of a gentleman? From their utter neglect to observe the simplest rules of the language—to correct those forms of speech which are particularly disagreeable to every person of education—one would be led to infer that such is the idea of some. If they could appreciate the fact that a man is greatly judged in the world, especially on slight acquaintance, by the language of which he makes use, *amour propre*, if not a decent respect for their Alma Mater, might lead them to pay some attention to its acquirement. The Alma Mater is no doubt much to blame for this state, but, as long as she finds no remedy for it, each graduate should himself discover it and act upon the discovery. I may add that this defect is not confined to graduates in the Army. With equal if not greater force my remarks apply to the citizen appointments. To them it is equally important to give this subject the attention it deserves. Without more studious habits than the graduates, they are as a rule behind them in general education, as the four years at West Point must beat into the brain of the most stupid or unwilling cadet, some knowledge of the sciences. As a rule, the officers to whom I now refer—graduates and citizen appointments—do not open a book of any description. Day after day they pass, even at the most isolated posts, in hopeless vacuity of thought. The exception is the perusal of a second class novel, and even of that most of the details are omitted in order to hurriedly reach the final catastrophe. A book of solid reading, on any subject, is never in their hands. A five minutes' glance at the tactics before drill constitutes

their investigation of military works; to gain general knowledge they have no desire. Even the duties of society are neglected by them. Among those stationed near large cities few make any attempt to gain entrance into the most cultivated and refined society which is there to be found. With advantages in this respect which few men of other walks possess, they make no effort whatever to profit by them. Is it that anything of a refining nature has no charm for them? It certainly has that appearance. A General Order issued from the headquarters of the Army, I think in 1821, enjoins in very convincing language, the duties of society upon all officers. That order might now be republished with beneficial results.

Is there then no remedy for all this? There certainly should be remedies for all evils of such prodigious growth. It is a well-known fact that a system of recitations leads to a more thorough knowledge of any subject than simple reading. For those who are studiously inclined, it has great advantages; those who have no desire to learn anything, can by it be forced to learn something. Let then the General of the Army, a man thoroughly competent to perform the task, select works to be studied by the officers for six months—say from the 15th of October to the 15th of April. Let these works consist of military art and science, celebrated campaigns, ancient and modern history, whatever he may deem most useful, but above all of a thorough English grammar. Let these books be furnished to each post by the War Department; each lesson, of which there should be at least two a week, being prescribed in General Orders. Let, then, the commanding officers of posts be required to hear the recitations in person, no officer being excused from any one of them except in case of illness which confines him to his quarters. At the conclusion of the six months' course, let the commanding officer of each regiment, accompanied by his adjutant or such other officer as he may select, proceed to each post occupied by his command, and there hold an examination in the studies that have been pursued. Such visits would have the additional good effect of acquainting the regimental commander with all his officers, and of giving him an opportunity to see the situation, etc., of the posts occupied by them. This is the more to be desired as at present many posts have never been visited by the regimental commanders of their garrisons.

The second six months' course should be a continuation of the first. Here arises an apparent difficulty (it is not one in reality), the arrival of newly appointed officers who have the first course to learn. Let the officer second in rank at the post hear their recitations. It will take little of his time, and will serve him for a review of the course. The second arrival of officers will necessitate another beginning. Here the third in rank will become the instructor, and so on. As all officers now in the Army would by this plan make the same progress, it will be seen that change of post would not affect the course. Each must learn so much every year, no matter where his station may be, or how often it be changed. Where a post commander finds that all his officers have entered the Army since the adoption of the system of instruction, he must alone pursue the studies prescribed for that year for officers, to use a convenient distinctive term, of the class to which he belongs. Officers on staff or other detached service must also pursue this course, being ordered, at the proper time, to the nearest military posts for examination. Officers sent on special service for some weeks—if it be impossible to study during such service—must make up the time on return to their posts; certainly not a very hard task when the lessons are neither many nor long. If sickness, or other unavoidable circumstance, make it impossible for an officer to pursue the course for any one year, the following year he must take up that course. Thus all cases might be provided for, and the system, though at first sight apparently complex, would be very simple in practice. At each examination let those who have failed to make satisfactory progress be rigorously dealt with. In the same number of the *Christian Union*, which contains the article on West Point, is the following:

"Sixty young officers have been dismissed from the Prussian army. They had obtained their commissions during the war for bravery in the field, and without having passed the ordinary examinations. They are now cashiered for not having succeeded since in acquiring the necessary qualifications for passing."

Could anything show more clearly the course pursued by the greatest military nation of the world in its army organization? While rewarding those distinguished in time of war by special meritorious acts, those so rewarded must elevate themselves, by their own efforts, to the standard of their new positions. In our Army how many to-day hold commissions gained by means less noble, yet retained with probably less knowledge than was possessed by those officers dismissed from the Prussian service. It is absurd to speak of past services, etc., in this connection. If, raised by those services, they have not sufficient ambition or intelligence to fit themselves for their new stations, they should no more be retained in them than any man in civil life should be retained in a position which he is incompetent to fill. I know many worthy sergeants and corporals who, if bravery in the field or faithful service be the only requirements for a commission, should long since have received theirs. I also know many worthy men in civil life who would, for seventy-five dollars a month, agree to perform the routine duties of an officer. Is there, then, not something more than ability to drill a company required? What is the standard? It must be intelligence, and a willingness to apply that intelligence to the acquirement of a knowledge of the higher branches of military art and science, of history, of literature, of everything, in fact, that goes to make up the accomplished soldier and gentleman.

Of the habit of excessive drinking in the Army I will not speak. All the writings in the universe cannot cure it. It never can be cured until officers are compelled to devote their minds to the pursuit of useful studies.

I doubt not that by some the ideas contained in this article will be deemed chimerical; others will always deary what they may term making school-boys of the officers of the Army. The former objection can only be answered by a trial of the system; the latter is too childish to consider. Our Army is intended for a school, but it is indeed a very sorry one at present. Reform is absolutely necessary, and some plan for it must be adopted if our officers are to hold comparison with those of other countries, or with the educated civilians of our own.

QUESTIONS OF MILITARY PROPRIETY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Referring to the communication of "Sadown" in No. 479 of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL (October 26), his quotation—

Different men have different 'pinions,
Some like apples, and some like lions—

is very appropriate when mentioned in connection with the subject on which his whole article is based. It is not the personal question whether the Colonel in question did right or wrong in publishing his letter, or whether the major named did or did not sign the petition alluded to. The question upon which different men will have different opinions is whether it is military or not to send petitions at all to the War Department, asking that orders be either changed or even modified. Some will contend that it is not military, while others contend that it is. I am free to confess that the writer of this article belongs to the latter class. If I am correct, this matter of petitions has become comparatively common during the past few years, to what it was before the war, when a petition was never, or very rarely, sent, or signed by officers for the purpose of sending to the War Department. Like a great many other things that have crept into the Army since the war, and which are undoubtedly the result of the war, this indiscriminate petitioning to the War Department is one, and it has become, or is becoming, an abuse in the opinion of more than one. Petitions have been circulated for increase of pay, for a change in the dress hat, for a change in the uniform coat—asking for double-breasted coats—for increase of pay of cavalry blacksmiths, to make subalterns' rank lineal, etc., and probably for a dozen other things. It is all very well for parties to give their opinion to the War Department when the War Department asks for it, but when that Department issues an order, it is decidedly unmilitary to immediately get up a written document, signed by one, or many, asking to either modify or revoke said order. If it is right to do so in one thing, it is right to do so in all; and I do not think any military gentleman will say it would be right, if a regiment were ordered to change station, for the officers to get up a petition to the War Department to either leave them where they were or send them to some other place than that named in the order. Gentlemen may pool-pool at the simile, but the principle is the same. And as far as the rank and file of the Army are concerned, the orders of the War Department should not be questioned more than the orders of a post commander dare be questioned by the officers serving at his post. As far as all subordinates are concerned, orders, etc., are to be as the "ancient laws of the Medes and Persians" until changed by proper authority; but not by petitions.

A good many Militia customs have obtained in the Regular Army since the war, and the free and easy style will never sustain discipline, by which all armies are held together and governed. The fundamental principle upon which all armies are based is blind and implicit obedience to all orders that are not manifestly and palpably illegal. It is an infringement of that principle for the inferior to ask, in any manner, the superior to change orders so as to suit the particular views of said inferior. The head of the War Department is the superior; all others in the Army are the inferiors. Each person can draw his own inference.

November 12, 1872.

AWODAS.

STONEWALL JACKSON.

In the autobiography of Joseph W. Revere, entitled "Keel and Saddle," and published by Osgood and Co., of Boston, a few pages are devoted to the late "Stonewall" Jackson. The first relates to a conversation with Jackson on a Mississippi steamer in the spring of 1852. Revere tells the story thus, and we give his narrative here with some doubts, but as perhaps worthy consideration:

Among my fellow-passengers on the steamer was Lieutenant Thomas J. Jackson, of the United States Army, who seemed at first a remarkably quiet, reserved, although very intelligent officer, and with whom I soon became acquainted, for there is everywhere a sort of camaraderie among officers of the two services which attracts them to each other in a crowd of strangers. For several days the inland voyage continued, and our nights were partly spent upon the hurricane deck of the steamer engaged in conversation.

One of these conversations was so peculiar that it fixed itself upon my memory, and subsequent events proved it worthy of record, although, I confess, I hesitate to put in writing anything which seems to border so nearly on the marvellous.

One clear, starlight night, as we glided along the calm river, our conversation turned upon the firmament and its countless orbs that looked down upon us. Jackson asked me if I had ever been induced to take a flight from the study of nautical astronomy, practised by all the naval officers, into the realms of astrology. I replied that I had always been interested more or less in those mathematical studies required in nautical calculations; and that, from the exact rules demanded for working the various problems of the ephemeris, I had sometimes, to amuse the idle hours of a sea life, worked out the nativities of my shipmates. I had even taken Zadkiel's

Almanac and used his rules, but without believing in the science of judicial astrology. Jackson, however, was not so incredulous, although it was evident that he had not then decided fully within himself as to the truth or falsehood of this exploded science.

"Why," said he, "should we be ridiculed for believing in this as in other occult sciences in this nineteenth century? Magnetism! magnetic somnambulism!—who shall say that the science of aerostation will not be made practically useful to mankind? Why should not the buoyant and elastic element surrounding our earth be made the vehicle of transportation from clime to clime for man and his increasing necessities? I will go farther, and ask, Who can doubt but that it will eventually be so used like its twin-element upon which we are now afloat? The means of directing those forces which we know exist have not yet been discovered; but that does not prove that the air will not some day find its Fulton or its Watt. The imperfect vision of things often appears to the intelligence before the things themselves. The learned are free to confess their ignorance, but they should not elevate it into a principle. They may understand and explain an immense number of phenomena, but the causes of these often entirely escape them, or they are compelled to take them upon trust as insoluble mysteries. Ask these savans the why and the wherefore of the natural actions they investigate, and they assume a solemn air and refer you to the fabulous ages of science. It is much easier to deny any relation of spirits to matter than to demonstrate it.

"If the illuminati of the middle ages have not made sciences, at least we cannot deny they have made poetry. Sentiment led them into the sphere of illusion, it is true; but illusion is often the shadow of truth. Let it be remembered that Kepler was an astrologer. The mathematician Cardan relates that the events of his life were announced to him through dreams, presentiments and apparitions, by his familiar genius and by the movements of the stars. And these were strong-minded men. Even Napoleon believed in his destiny, and is said to have carried his belief in the supernatural further than his historians will admit. Those bright orbs above us are living creatures. Each one of them is animated by a certain intelligence gifted with forces, and they act directly upon our planet. Each ray of light falling to earth finds its destination in the animate world. Not a living being, not even a flower, but has its patron and guide on high in one of those orbs suspended in ether. Why should not this wonderful influence transmitted through space, this communion of souls as it may be called, this correspondence of the spheres, forming a universal bond of union, determine also the destinies of the beings they are known to influence? Whenever one of those worlds approaches another, does not each endeavor to draw the other within the sphere of its attraction? And who in this day will deny the Newtonian theory?

"To foretell events, to pierce the heavy mist that conceals from us the secrets of fate, is a universal longing of the human heart. This longing is felt in the hut of the savage as well as in the palaces of the great. So fierce and universal a desire must be one of nature's mysteries. She has already opened our eyes to so many it cannot be that she means to deceive us in this one.

"If we do not read in the great book eternally open before us in the skies, as we have already done in that book the leaves of which are in the strata of the earth, it is because we have only learned to spell as yet in the alphabet of mystery."

Before we parted at Pittsburg, a day or two after this conversation, I had given Jackson the necessary data for calculating a horoscope, and in the course of a few months I received from him a letter, which I preserved, enclosing a scheme of my nativity. As any one who may have calculated these schemes by the rules must know, a horoscope may be interpreted in various, even contradictory, terms by different persons, and this was no exception to the rule. The only reason I had for remembering it at all was that our destinies seemed to run in parallel lines, and so far it was remarkable. It was this peculiarity that caused Jackson to communicate with me and the reason why I laid it carefully aside for a re-examination.

These several planets were placed in their respective houses above and below the horizon, and Saturn being near the meridian and approaching a square with the moon, great danger was to be apprehended by the native at the period when the aspect became complete. Mars also bore a threatening aspect, while Jupiter was below the horizon and semi-sextile, which was not altogether unfavorable. There was no trine, and the sextile was weak. Altogether, from the evil aspect of the square of Saturn, which threatened an opposition—that most dreaded of all the evil aspects of the heavens—the scheme was quite dangerous and malign.

The precise time and nature of the threatened danger, requiring a second calculation, accompanied the scheme, prognosticating the culmination of the malign aspect within some ten years, or during the first days of May, 1863, at which time the native ran great risk of life and fortunes; but, in case he survived that peril, the ominous period would never again recur.

In his letter Jackson says: "I have gone over these calculations several times, as their result is almost an exact reproduction of my own. . . . It is clear to me that we shall both be exposed to a common danger at the time indicated."

Having but little faith in the almost forgotten and altogether repudiated science of astrology, I took little heed of either his scheme of nativity or his letter, regarding the former as ingenious, but as merely a proof of an ardent and somewhat enthusiastic temperament, while I little imagined at that time that the rather unpolished and rugged exterior of Lieutenant Jackson concealed a character destined to become famous among his countrymen.

The second extract relates to the circumstances attending Jackson's death.

I served in the army until after the battle of Chancel-

lorsville, participating in all its important engagements and the greater part of the time commanding a brigade. At the battle above named I was an involuntary witness of an event which had an important bearing on the issue of the war, and which has been a subject of prolonged controversy. I refer to the death of Stonewall Jackson. The circumstances under which I acquired the right to give testimony in the matter were somewhat remarkable, and I here give a full statement of them:

The left of my brigade line lay near the plank road at Chancellorsville, and after night had fallen I rode forward, according to my invariable habit, to inspect my picket line. The moon had risen and partially illuminated the woods. I began my inspection on the right of the picket line, progressing gradually to the left, where I stopped to rectify the post of a sentinel not far from the plank road. While thus engaged I heard the sound of hoofs from the direction of the enemy's line and paused to listen. Soon a cavalcade appeared, approaching us. The foremost horseman detached himself from the main body, which halted not far from us, and riding cautiously near seemed to pierce the gloom. He was so close to us that the soldier nearest me levelled his rifle for a shot at him; but I forbade him, as I did not wish to have our position revealed, and it would have been useless to kill the man, whom I judged to be a staff officer making a reconnaissance.

Having completed his observations, this person rejoined the group in his rear, and all returned at a gallop. The clatter of hoofs soon ceased to be audible, and the silence of the night was unbroken, save by the melancholy cries of the whip-poor-will, which were heard in one continued wail, like spirit voices, when the horizon was lighted up by a sudden flash in the direction of the enemy, succeeded by the well-known rattle of a volley of musketry from at least a battalion. A second volley quickly followed the first, and I heard cries in the same direction.

Fearing that some of our troops might be in that locality, and that there was danger of our firing upon friends, I left my orderly and rode towards the Confederate lines.

A riderless horse dashed past me towards our lines, and I reined up in presence of a group of several persons gathered around a man lying on the ground apparently badly wounded. I saw at once that these were Confederate officers, and visions of the Libby began to flit through my mind; but, reflecting that I was well armed and mounted, and that I had on the great-coat of a private soldier, such as was worn by both parties, I sat still, regarding the group in silence, but prepared to use either my spurs or my sabre, as occasion might demand.

The silence was broken by one of the Confederates, who appeared to regard me with astonishment; then, speaking in a tone of authority, he ordered me to "ride up there and see what troops those were," indicating the rebel position. I instantly made a gesture of assent and rode slowly in the direction indicated until out of sight of the group, then made a circuit round it and returned within my own lines. Just as I had answered the challenge of our picket the action of our artillery posted on the plank road began firing, and I could plainly hear the grape crashing through the trees near the spot occupied by the group of Confederate officers.

About a fortnight afterwards I saw a Richmond newspaper at the camp at Falmouth, in which were detailed the circumstances of the death of Stonewall Jackson. These left no doubt in my own mind that the person I had seen lying on the ground was that officer, and that his singular prediction, mentioned previously in these pages, had been verified.

The following is an extract from the newspaper account:

"General Jackson, having gone some distance in front of his line on Saturday evening, was returning about eight o'clock, attended by his staff. The cavalcade was, in the darkness, mistaken for a body of the enemy's cavalry, and fired on by a regiment of his own corps."

Then, after detailing what took place after the General fell from his horse, the account proceeds:

"The turpitude was utterly deserted, with the exception of Captains Wilbourn and Wynn; but, in the skirting of thicket on the left, some person was observed by the side of the wood, sitting on his horse motionless and silent. The unknown individual was clad in a dark dress, which strongly resembled the Federal uniform; but it seemed impossible that he could have penetrated to that spot without being discovered, and what followed seemed to prove that he belonged to the Confederates. Captain Wilbourn directed him to ride up there and see what troops those were—the men who fired on Jackson—and the stranger rode slowly in the direction pointed out, but never returned with any answer. Who this silent personage was is left to posterity," etc.—*Richmond Enquirer*, May 12, 1863.

Jackson's death happened in strange coincidence with his horoscopic prediction made years before; but the coincidence was, I believe, merely fortuitous, and I mention it here only to show what mysterious "givings-out" we sometimes experience in life.

A TELEGRAM from Copenhagen, published by the *Cologne Gazette*, states that the Danish War Minister is preparing plans for the fortification of Copenhagen and several other points in Denmark. According to the *Hamburg Correspondent* the fortifications of Copenhagen will cost from nine to ten millions of rigedalers, and the chief point it is proposed to fortify are the heights of Fredericksborg and Vigersley, as also another height near Uttersley, upon which two forts will be placed. While thus making ready for war the Danes do not neglect more pacific means of securing what they want. We learn from Berlin that a deputation from the inhabitants of Sonderburg has arrived in the Prussian capital to present to the Chamber of Deputies a petition asking that assembly to support the views of Sleevig in regard to the fifth article of the Treaty of Prague.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

TWENTY-EIGHTH (BATTALION) INFANTRY.—This battalion, Colonel Burger, is ordered to assemble at the Kings county armory, in fatigue uniform (white gloves), December 5, at 8 o'clock P. M. Company D, Captain Louis Dohling commanding, will assemble, in fatigue uniform (white gloves), at the place and time above mentioned, for mustering into State service, by Major George Kinkel, brigade inspector and mustering officer. The assembly of the battalion is in honor of the mustering of Company D into this command. First Sergeant Sylvester Speicher and Sergeant Theodore Deibner, Company H, have been discharged by reason of expiration of terms of service.

SIXTY-NINTH INFANTRY.—This command, Colonel Cavanagh, paraded for battalion drill, in fatigue uniform, at the regimental armory, on Tuesday evening last, and is ordered to parade for the same purpose at the State Arsenal, December 3 and 20. Assembly at 7:45 o'clock P. M. The commissioned and non-commissioned officers were ordered to assemble, in fatigue uniform, at the regimental armory on Friday evening. Commandants of companies are ordered to send a complete roster and address list of the members of their respective companies to regimental headquarters on or before the 30th inst.; also to have the books and records of their respective companies at the regimental armory on Monday, December 2, at 8 o'clock P. M. The books and records of this command will be inspected during the second week of December. Major James P. McIvor has been commissioned by the Commander-in-Chief.

THIRD INFANTRY.—This command, which received frequent notice in these columns, both in the way of praise and censure, and the only military organization in the county, turned out at Yonkers on Monday last in perhaps the best style that has yet been attained by it this year; went through a very satisfactory parade and review, and maintained, as a body, a spirit of order and self-respect that gives good grounds for hoping that the organization may yet become what it should be, considering its excellent material, a first class command. The different companies, scattered over the country as they are, experienced much difficulty in getting to Yonkers. Westchester county, in common with the city, has been afflicted with the "boulevard" mania, and subsequently thereto with the "reform" mania. The consequence has been that unfinished boulevards, wildernesses of mud in rainy weather, abound all over the county, reminding the military observer of the well-remembered "mud raids" around Virginia. The marching from the New Haven track to Yonkers we should say was simply damnable, if profane language were our habit, which the readers of the JOURNAL know is not the case. As it is, we will only call it detestable. It was 12 o'clock before the last company got in; and then the line was formed on Broadway, opposite the Getty House, with seven equalized commands, of twelve files each. The companies looked well, notably so Company A, which we had occasion to reprove very sharply in our last notice of the regiment. Their turnout was the largest of any, and their men kept sober, and behaved very well indeed. The captain seemed to be on his mettle, for he employed his waiting time in drilling the manual of arms and other exercises, going through the form of inspection among other things. In this, however, he considerably overdid the matter, committing several errors which he might have avoided but for "showing off." In his inspection, for instance, he neglected to examine the locks of the pieces, seeming to be satisfied with jingling the rammers in a very musical manner, and failing entirely to inspect the rear rank. The manual, too, was very poorly executed, hands being at all sorts of heights in "present arms," slopes at "right shoulder shift" at every angle conceivable, etc. We would here observe in passing, that officers should always be sure of the individual instruction of their companies before entering into volunteer exhibition drills of this kind, and even then they are not always in good taste. The performance of this company, however, was a step in advance from last parade.

The line being formed, a street parade of an hour and a half's duration followed, and then the regiment passed in review before Mayor Courter, of Yonkers, in very creditable style, the review terminating the parade. The band of the Fourth Connecticut headed the regiment, having been engaged for the day, and made a splendid appearance, besides discoursing excellent music. The band leader's bearskin shako excited great awe among the small boys of Yonkers, the summit of its plume towering about eight feet above the street, and serving as a landmark to indicate the position of the regiment during its lengthy peregrinations, our reporter judiciously saving his boots by taking an inside track, and looking out for the big hat at cross streets, etc. The review over, an excellent dinner was enjoyed by the field and staff of the Third at the Getty House, with his honor Mayor Courter at the head of the table. Many heartfelt toasts were drunk to the prosperity of the regiment, and pleasant speeches made, and every one seemed to realize that the Third had passed through its late trials with a good effect on the esprit de corps of the regiment. It may be mentioned that this is the first official opportunity that Mayor Courter has had of participating in an affair of this kind, but he certainly did himself great credit on the occasion. Though a young man and unacquainted with military matters, he has given token

ere this that he possesses the true military spirit. He was one of the first in Westchester to join in the movement lately started there, which we hope in due time to see carried to successful accomplishment, of organizing a squadron of cavalry composed of the elite of the county. In receiving the compliment of the review from the Third he displayed great dignity and courtesy of demeanor; and at the subsequent dinner won golden opinions for his geniality and good fellowship.

To conclude, the good features of this parade were many—a total absence of stragglers, a much greater self-respect exhibited by companies, and almost no drunkenness. Two men, one of G and one of C, we believe, were sent to the stationhouse for transgressing, but that was all that was necessary. For the sake of the National Guard, we hope that the Third will not stop in the race, but endeavor to improve in the future, and make their regiment, what it can easily be made with hard work, a first class organization. Let there be no half way. Hard work has put the Seventh at the head of the city regiments. Let the Third take the lead in the country. It can be done if the members only will only believe it, and try hard enough.

THE MILITIA V. THE BOSTON FIRE.—The guard of militia in the "burnt district" of Boston has been gradually reduced, and Brigadier-General Burrill, commanding First brigade, and who since the conflagration has controlled the movements of the troops, has retired from the command, which has been turned over to Colonel Finan, the commandant of the Ninth Infantry. In retiring from duty, General Burrill thus congratulates and praises the troops in orders:

The brigadier-general commanding, in retiring from the duties to which he was called by the calamity that recently befell the chief city of the Commonwealth, desires to thank the officers and soldiers under his command for the faithful and efficient manner in which their various and arduous duties have been performed.

Called into service in the midst of a terrible conflagration, which appalled the community, and concentrated the attention of the nation, while nearly every citizen was fighting flames or saving property, and when apprehensions of violence and disorder entered every mind, your promptness in answering the call, and your subsequent conduct, have won golden opinions everywhere. Your prompt response to the summons awed every form of violence that threatened, dispelled the fears of the community, established confidence and security, and made a resort to martial law unnecessary. You became at once the armed auxiliaries of the police force of the city, subject to the civil authority, and these relations you sustained to the end. It was a most perplexing service to perform in the heart of a great city in such a crisis, and it is a matter for the warmest congratulation that all the delicate and difficult duties of the occasion were so happily, promptly, and satisfactorily discharged; at no time was there conflict of authority, or clashing between the police and military. Throughout the most perfect harmony and cordial good feeling existed between our organization and the municipal authorities. Although at times most stringent orders have been issued, let it be well understood that they were dictated by duty, and demanded by the exigencies of the case, and that all such orders have been executed in a manner calculated to give the least offence and inconvenience to the citizens while fully protecting life and property in the guarded districts of our city. Your conduct throughout this emergency puts at rest any doubt that may have existed touching the value of a well trained militia organization. The commanding general renews his congratulations to the entire command upon this proof of their good discipline, reliability, and efficiency.

In speaking of the military guard, the Boston Globe says:

During the thirteen days that General Burrill has been on duty there have been issued from headquarters twenty-four general orders and sixty special orders. The preparation of these orders, involving, of course, numerous consultations, and the proper administration of them have necessitated a large amount of work at headquarters, which have, from the beginning, been a busy scene. Add to this the labor incident to the judicious issue of the forty thousand passes within the lines of the burnt district, and there is fair reason to suppose that both the general commanding and the gentlemen of the staff feel that a respite from duty has been fairly earned. This matter of passes has required almost constant attention on the part of some one of the staff, considerable caution and due inquiry in regard to the applicants having been exercised in each case. The whole arrangement was a matter of military routine, and the technicalities of the service were duly observed, both by the commander and his subordinates. This view of the situation was one that for obvious reasons the public generally could not fully appreciate. For example, there have been frequent applications for passes to admit ladies to the burnt district. These had to be refused. Yet it was not readily understood why an occasional relaxation of the rule in behalf of such as might think they had personal or official claims to such courtesy could not be made. The order to exclude all women and children was a general order, and was issued for the government of the troops, and officially brought to the attention of all in the usual military mode. To modify or countermand in part or whole a general order requires by the strict usage the issue of another general order. Therefore, to pass John Smith and his wife within the lines would require the promulgation of a general order in behalf of said Mrs. Smith, which must be transmitted in the usual manner, and read to the several companies when assembled. To be sure, there was another mode, namely, that a staff officer might be specially detailed to accompany the curious-minded lady and escort her within the lines and among the ruins and see her safely out again, but the staff officers were too few and the Mrs. Smiths were too many to admit of this sort of thing.

SIXTH INFANTRY.—A detailed battalion of this command on Monday, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Van Wyck, paraded metaphorically as escort to the Veterans of 1812 on the occasion of the raising of a flag on the new staff of the "old fort" on the heights near One Hundred and Tenth street. The Veterans, thirty-two in number, formed in front of St. Paul's Church, Broadway, and were then conveyed in stages to their destination. The ceremony of raising the flag was conducted amid cheers and speech making,

after which the Veterans and the detachment returned to the armory where a feast of reason and flow of soul closed the interesting proceedings of the day. Colonel Sterry and his command have acted the kindly part toward the little band of almost forgotten Veterans of the war of 1812, and we trust the same praiseworthy attention will long continue.

EVACUATION DAY.—Monday was the anniversary of the day our British cousins "ran away" from New York city. It is a melancholy fact that the memory of the great events in our revolutionary history is slowly fading away from the minds of our people. The surrender of Cornwallis, once a recognized festival and "training day," is almost forgotten now as an anniversary; and our own local memorial of "Evacuation Day," a sufficiently important fact one would think to be commemorated (since America could not be said to be a fully recognized nation till the last British soldier had left her soil), has gradually ceased to be observed as a general holiday. That this should be so, is matter of surprise and regret to many thinking Americans, since it is only by keeping the memory of the past green that we can preserve the spirit that animated that past in the future. Right or wrong, however, it is an undoubted fact that Evacuation Day is not the holiday with us that it once was, and we are glad to record any incident that seems to show a lingering respect for its observance. In New York city the usual division parades have been omitted for the past few years, save in a few isolated instances elsewhere commemorated. Under the existing circumstances, however, we do not deem a division parade at this season of the year wise, for scarcely any of the numerous organizations are provided with overcoats, nor have any real efforts been made by the majority of the men toward a provision of this essential portion of a soldier's dress. Monday was an exceptional mild November day, and on this day overcoats were not too warm. But take the usual coldness of this period of the year, and attempt a show parade, and let the men stand for any length of time in the shivering tinsel of a modern dress uniform—all padded in the breast with nothing but thin cloth for the protection of the back or loins—and there is no telling how many sow the seed of consumption or similar complaints. So cruel a display, in our estimation, is almost enough to awaken the animal sympathy of philanthropic Bergh, if he had the same sympathy for man as shown to the beasts. The Sixth and Seventh were the regiments of the division that paraded, and these for a good purpose; the former regiment as escort to the Veterans of the war of 1812, while the latter as escort to the Veterans (?) of Pennsylvania. The Third Infantry paraded at Yonkers, an account of all of which is given elsewhere.

TWENTY-THIRD INFANTRY.—The new armory of this command is approaching completion so rapidly that it becomes a matter of wonder, upon looking at the rising walls of brick and stone, that so much can be accomplished in but a few short weeks. Some two months ago, where now tower two stories of brick, covering a space of about two hundred feet square, there existed nothing but a vacant lot. The regiment is watching the progress of the armory with much interest, and on a pleasant Sunday the unfinished building passed a thorough inspection. It is said that each wing of the regiment takes turns at these tours of inspection, but as we have never received any orders from regimental headquarters regarding this matter, we are inclined to doubt it. The regiment has had a lithographic impression of the new armory, as it will appear when completed, printed on its regimental letter paper as a corrected description of the plan of the building, etc. From this it appears that the building covers a plot of ground having a front of 176 feet on Clermont avenue, with a depth of 200 feet, running through to Vanderbilt avenue. It is constructed of brick, the front of Philadelphia brick, with yellow stone trimmings. The walls are 20 inches thick, with buttresses six feet at the base opposite each of the iron trusses supporting the roof. On Clermont avenue are four towers, the largest of which is 100 feet high. On the first floor is the main drill-room, 125 by 180 feet, being the largest drill-room in the country without pillars or other obstructions. The floor is laid on timbers sunk in concrete, thus relieving the walls from the strain occasioned by bodies of men marching in the cadenced step. On this floor also, on the north side of the building, are ten company rooms, each 17 by 38 1-2 feet, and the armorer's shop, stairs to gallery, etc. On the second floor (which extends over the company rooms) is a squad drill-room 38 by 89 feet, and the rooms for board of officers, colonel, adjutant, quartermaster, band and drum corps, and quarters for the janitor. These rooms are entered from the gallery, which extends along the north and west sides of the large drill-room. The entire building is heated by steam. The drill-rooms are lighted by patent reflectors. Wash-rooms and water-closets are conveniently located. The work is progressing so rapidly that there is no doubt but the regiment will be in possession early in the spring.

SEVENTH INFANTRY.—This (Saturday) evening the Seventh regiment will introduce again the band concerts, which for the past two seasons have been discontinued, at the regimental armory. The resumption of these pleasant musical entertainments is well received by the regiment and its friends, and at this series Grafalia and his musical followers will introduce not a few new and popular selections. The regimental committee on music design to make these concerts better and more satisfactory than ever before. The concerts

will take place on Saturday evenings, November 30, December 21, January 25, February 22, and March 29.

RECEPTION OF THE FIRST PENNSYLVANIA.—On Monday last New York city had another military sensation in the visit of the First regiment Infantry of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The proposition of the visit of this regiment has long attracted general interest in military circles here and in Philadelphia, the city from which the regiment hailed, and not a little anxiety was manifested among the troops of New York as to who should extend the honors of an escort, and the hospitalities of the city and division. The original purpose of the visit was to participate in the old time celebration of the evacuation of New York of the British, and to parade with the First division, but the celebration of that revolutionary anniversary has gradually fallen into disuse. The military also, for good and sufficient reasons elsewhere expressed, have of late years omitted any extensive display, the celebration therefore has been confined to independent parades of companies and regiments. The Philadelphians, therefore, had it all their own way, no opportunity being offered of a general comparison with the troops of the First division. The honors of the escort and host fell gracefully on the Seventh, and although the whole matter was of an impromptu nature, the members of the latter command did not fail to well sustain their reputation as soldiers and hosts. The visitors arrived by special train from Philadelphia. Upon arrival the regiment was received formally by Colonel Clarke, of the Seventh, and escorted by his soldiers (metaphorically) to the Grand Central Hotel in Broadway. The spectators along the line of march were so numerous that until the arrival of the visitors at the Hotel, Broadway, at any point between Canal and Amity streets, was almost impassable, and in fact remained so for an hour after all that was to be seen had vanished. It is due to the Philadelphians to say that their appearance was very fine, the marching, being exceedingly commendable, doing credit to the great State they represented. The regiment was commanded by Colonel Latta, and numbered three hundred and fifty men. The uniform of the men consisted of dark blue dress coats, swallowtail pattern, blue trousers, dress chapeaux with plumes, and one cross belt upon which was worked very handsomely the regimental coat-of-arms.

Upon their arrival at the Grand Central, the troops stacked their arms in the lobby, and proceeded at once in some haste, to the demolition of choice viands that were temptingly spread upon the dining room tables. Lunch over, many of the visitors assembled in groups and sallied forth for a stroll.

The regiment, at 3 P. M., proceeded down Broadway, escorted by the Seventh regiment, to Beaver, through Beaver street, Broad street, Maiden Lane, Broadway, and thence by way of Park Row to the City Hall, where it was reviewed by Mayor Hall and Major-General Shaler.

The Seventh paraded ten commands, twenty fair files, which during most of the march were divided into platoons, the street being too narrow for so extensive a front. The visitors paraded ten commands, twelve front; were in "marching order," without overcoats, and with blankets rolled, and never lost a chance of turning out a front equal to that of the Seventh by forming division. This they did on arrival and in passing in review. The Seventh wore the seasonable blue overcoats, and both regiments as they marched over the route were the recipients of much praise and applause from the unusual number of curb-stone lookers-on. The First regiment was finally escorted to its headquarters at the Grand Central, the Seventh continuing the march to the regimental armory, where, soon after, the visitors followed in a body, and without muskets.

The visitors were welcomed by Colonel Clark, provided with an impromptu collation, and "champagned" for an hour or so, the Seventh "boys" doing the "handsome" for the men of the First above stairs, while the officers of both commands and distinguished guests passed the social hour below stairs in the Board of Officers' room. The visitors were informally escorted by the Seventh amid music and fireworks to the grand central point of attraction.

PENNSYLVANIA'S PROPOSED NEW MILITIA LAW.—In our comments on the First division of Pennsylvania in the last number of the JOURNAL, we referred to the exertions of Brigadier-General Hoffman, toward reorganizing and placing the militia of the State on a more efficient footing. General Hoffman, it will be remembered, some time since compiled a very interesting and valuable statistical report of the strength and condition of the militia of the United States as recorded in the latest documents issued by the military headquarters of the various States, giving a description also in this report in brief how each of the States supported its militia, and a record of the States who thus far had failed to attempt to even organize a militia, let alone support one. This pamphlet also set forth in terse style the necessity for a thorough militia system in every State, and strongly urged that it be organized on a Governmental basis. The pamphlet, which we republished with favorable comments, attracted considerable attention throughout the National Guard of the country. General Hoffman and other prominent officers of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, have made several ineffectual attempts to legislate for the State militia, and this winter another effort is to be made under, perhaps, more favorable auspices than ever before. The election of Governor Hartranft, a volunteer officer of the war, of high reputation, and until his election the commander of the

Second division of the State troops, will undoubtedly tend to increase the interest of the people and legislature of the State in its militia, and with one of its former officers as commander-in-chief, the prospects of the military of the State begin to look bright.

We take from the Sunday Republic a synopsis of a new militia law, prepared by or under the supervision of General Hoffman, which some few weeks since was submitted to the officers of the First division of the State, and placed in the hands of a committee for printing and general circulation among the other military divisions for the purpose of procuring their co-operation in its passage at the next session of the legislature.

Section 1 provides for the contingency of war, who shall then be exempt, etc.

Section 2 provides that in time of peace the National Guard of the State shall be composed of volunteers, not to exceed in number as follows, to wit: One company of infantry of an aggregate of not over fifty-three for every ten thousand of the population of the State; the State to be divided into six military divisions, and in each of these six military divisions, in addition to the infantry companies, there may be organized two troops of cavalry and two mounted batteries of artillery, the number of infantry companies allotted to each of the six military divisions to be in proportion to the population thereof, the minimum of companies to be thirty-two enlisted men, maximum fifty. The Governor may in special cases extend the maximum to one hundred.

Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, provide that in all that pertains to organization, discipline, number of officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, and the tactics in which the troops are to be instructed, the orders of the War Department for the Army shall govern, except as otherwise provided for. A regiment is to consist of not less than eight, and not more than ten companies, battalions of from two to seven companies to have a proportionate number of field-officers. The Governor may organize the troops in each military division into brigades, regiments, and battalions, and reorganize them from time to time as he may deem best for the interests of the service; all officers to be selected as at present, the term of officers and men to be five years.

Section 8 provides that the uniform of the officers shall be the same as that prescribed for the officers of the Army, and that for the enlisted men such as may be prescribed by a board of officers to be appointed for that purpose. This uniform then to be known as the uniform of the National Guard of the State, to be worn on certain drills, and on a muster provided for. But any organization may provide itself with an additional uniform which may be worn on all other occasions. Companies that have already provided themselves with a uniform, to have two years to provide the prescribed uniform.

Section 9. Arms and accoutrements are to be issued only to companies that have uniformed themselves, and whose officers have been elected and given bonds, each in the sum of one thousand dollars. Every newly elected company officer is to give a bond in like sum.

Section 10. Courts-martial are to be governed by the usages and customs of the Army, but in imposing sentences are to be confined, in case of an officer, to reprimand, suspension from duty for not over six months, forfeiture of his time served or part thereof, fine of not over one hundred dollars. In case of an enlisted man forfeiture of his time served, fine of not over twenty dollars, dishonorable discharge. Officers and men who refuse to come before a court for trial, or to give evidence, or who refuse to pay a fine adjudged by a court, to be dismissed the service by the Governor or division commander in General Orders. Officers and men dismissed to forfeit their time served.

Section 11. Company officers and enlisted men are to attend drills two evenings in each month, in October, November, December, January, February, March, April and May, and parade for an annual muster in May, and as much oftener for discipline as their respective commanding officers may direct; company commanders to make bi-monthly reports of attendance at the drills; also, an annual report of the same in the month of June. Division, brigade and regimental commanders are to make an annual report of the officers of their staffs who have faithfully discharged their duties during the year.

Section 12. Benefits to accrue from services: Officers and men to be exempt from serving as jurors during their term of service in the National Guard, and total exemption after five years' service, and an honorable discharge. All officers and men to receive eight dollars annually as a reimbursement of the cost of their uniforms, but every company officer and enlisted man to forfeit fifty cents of his pay for every one of the prescribed drills that he may neglect to attend. Headquarters expenses are provided for; for a division, \$500; brigade, \$200; a regiment, \$500; a company, \$200 and \$5 a day for horses used, not to exceed six days in a year.

Section 13. Expenses for maintaining the National Guard to be deemed part of the general expenses of the State, to be provided for at the same time and in the same manner that the other general expenses of the State are provided for.

Company commanders to keep a roll-book, in which the attendance at drills is to be noted. A false entry in this book is made a misdemeanor, punished by fine and imprisonment. Officers forwarding annual returns are to make an affidavit thereto. False swearing is made perjury. Assistant adjutants-general and regimental and battalion adjutants are empowered to administer affidavits in all matters appertaining to the National Guard.

This bill proposes to dispense with the heretofore obnoxious militia enrolment. All militia tax, personal or otherwise, is to be dispensed with. Courts-martial cannot imprison, nor can they compel the attendance of witnesses, citizens, or members of the National Guard. If the latter refuse to attend they are to be dismissed the service, and the citizens are guarded against any interference with their persons by authority of a court-martial. Should a case arise where the evidence of a citizen is absolutely needed for the good of the public, there is no doubt but that such a case could be tried in a civil court, where the attendance could be compelled by law. The proposed new law as a whole is an improvement on any thus far introduced in Pennsylvania, but is much behind that of New York in providing for stability and discipline. The first nine sections will undoubtedly

edly answer every purpose if properly carried out, but the tenth and eleventh sections are open to serious criticism if there is any intention to organize an efficient militia, in requiring either strength, drill, and last but by no means least, the requisite discipline to make the militia an effective body. Delinquent members of the National Guard care little for the mere dismissal from the service, and would deem the payment of a fine of \$20 a cheap riddance of a duty that had lost its novelty. What provisions are made for the delinquent who even proposes to get off still cheaper by a refusal to pay said fine? By section 11 of this law, members are only compelled to attend drill twice a month; but suppose a company commander wishes to drill more frequently as provided further on in this section, we do not see how he can possibly enforce his orders if the men wish to stay away. There is nothing in these sections to enforce rigorous discipline, nor make the men pay fines for the neglect of duty except dismissal from service by the Governor or division commander. Imprisonment, the fear of same, or the seizure of the goods or chattels of the delinquent, is the only means of properly securing discipline or the performance of duty, from a large class of militiamen, and the above law is weak particularly in this most essential point. If Pennsylvania, or any other State can properly govern its militia, and at the same time secure strength and discipline under a law without any real force, it or they can do more than New York. The privileges and benefits provided in section 12 are good, and term of service long enough. But the amount of annual pay for well-performance of duty is altogether inadequate for uniform purposes. The amounts for headquarters expenses for company should be far less than that for a brigade, and we doubt the propriety of allowing companies any amount for headquarters purposes. The law, we think, requires not a few changes and additions which we trust the officers will see that it receives.

VARIOUS ITEMS.—The "Recher Guards," Company F Thirty-second regiment, had a very pleasant time last year. They will repeat it on January 13.....Captain Wm. Heerdt, of the Twenty-eighth, and formerly second lieutenant in the Forty-seventh, is actively recruiting and drilling Company I, and bids fair to muster at next inspection the largest and best drilled and disciplined company in the regiment.....Will Capt. King, of Co. D, Forty-seventh, be crowned with success in his endeavors to procure the majority in the Thirty-second?.....Colonel Roeher has appointed a disciple of Esculapius, Philip Krieger, hospital steward.....It is rumored that "the captain what carries them medals" in the Fifth regiment will be promoted to a field position in his regiment. Will Colonel Spencer be appointed on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief—or does Lieutenant-Colonel Krieger or Major Hallen intend to retire in order to make a vacancy for "det Kep-tin"?.....Samuel Smith, of Company F, Ninth regiment (and probably the grandson of Captain Pocahontas Smith), will shortly be first sergeant Company D, Forty-seventh regiment.....Major Fred. Karcher seems to have been very unfortunate lately. He lately lost his famous milk-white steed by over exertion in the service, but in the lecture business he has cleared—his pockets.....At the regular meeting of the National Guard Riding Club of Williamsburgh held at the house of Colonel Barger, on the 24th inst, the following gentlemen were elected as officers for the ensuing year: Lieutenant Peter Bertsch, president; Brevet Major and Adjutant Fred. J. Karcher, secretary; and Adjutant Albin Gustave Pape, treasurer.....We learn that the noted widowers of the Twenty-eighth regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Obernier, Major Wills, and Lieutenant Hesse, have agreed that the one who marries first shall purchase a wedding suit of clothes for all, similar to that in which he marries. After the "articles" were duly signed, etc., Major Wills intimated that he intended marrying when the thermometer indicates 110 deg. Fahrenheit, so that he could then appropriately don a linen suit.....Company C, Forty-seventh regiment, will hold its second annual invitation military and civil ball at Apollo Rooms, Williamsburgh, on Tuesday evening, January 14, 1873. The regimental band has been engaged for the occasion.....A correspondent wants to know "when the report of the Adjutant-General for 1872 will make its appearance?" We presume early in January or February.....A celebrated chorister of one of the Williamsburgh churches, having won the confidence of the brethren and enlisted their sympathy to protect their firesides, and "all that sort of thing," is now negotiating with one of the Eastern District regiments to be "taken in" as a company, according to regulations. Some regiment therefore will soon have a musical command.....First Lieutenant George Dietrich and Second Lieutenant Henry Miller, of Company D, Thirty-second regiment, have been commissioned by the Commander-in-Chief.....The "General Catlin Social Association" will be reviewed by General Isaac S. Catlin, U. S. Army, accompanied by a "terpsichore staff," at Turn Hall, Brooklyn, E. D., December 11.....The numerous members of Company F, Fifth, Captain Bruer, held high carnival on Wednesday night at the Teutonia Assembly Rooms.....On the same evening, Company H, Eighth, had a good time dancing at the regimental armory.....The Eighth has a commissary, and his name is Decker.....In the publication of the inspection returns last week, of the Twenty-fourth brigade, by a transposition by the printer, the figures of the Forty-eighth were given to the Fifty-first regiment and vice versa.....First Sergeant Waring, of the Forty-seventh drum corps, is mentioned as the "coming drum-major" of this corps. From what we know of this aspirant we should deem him perfectly competent for the position, and from past service entitled to the position, aside from rotation in rank.

THE ENGLISH NAVY OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE.

WE find in the London journals the subjoined synopsis of a speech made at Reading by Mr. Shaw-Lefevre of the Admiralty. It is of course in answer to criticisms lately made by Mr. Reed, late chief constructor of the British Navy, and has an interest for us as well as the English people.

As regarded the officers and seamen he might confidently say that at no time in the memory of man or in the history of the country had they borne a higher character for all those qualities which form the true strength of the service. Indeed, of late years, by dint of superior training, by taking boys at an early age and educating them for the service, and by raising their position in a variety of ways, the quality of English seamen had been improved to a very remarkable extent, whether as regarded their discipline, education, or physical condition, and it was certain that no such class of men existed in any other navy in the world. It was hardly necessary, he thought, to remind them that one of the morals drawn from the great war between Germany and France was that the high training and education of the German soldiers was advantageous in this respect, enabling them rapidly to adapt themselves to the changes in regimental tactics which the conditions of war compelled their leaders to adopt; so also was it with our seamen in these days of rapid change in the science of naval architecture, in the conflict and struggle between ships and guns in which each authority gets an advantage. While some authorities pronounced our ironclads to be obsolete almost as soon as they were completed, while it was still uncertain whether the monster ironclads of the *Devastation* class, or the sea-going ironclads, like the *Hercules*, were the most valuable, while there were many who thought the time had come when, like the knights of old, we should cast away the heavy armor with which we have encumbered our ships, and trust rather to offensive weapons than to great speed, and to the individual daring of our sailors, others thought some substitute for war might be invented, or that ships might be kept afloat by some such material as cork. He would say that in these days nobody could safely predict what might be the ships of the next naval warfare, or what kind of platform our seamen would find best adapted for attack or defence; but this was admitted, that our seamen, by their discipline and intelligence, would be equal to the occasion, and would avail themselves of whatever materials were best suited to the conditions of war; and, above all, they would retain the coolness and self-confidence which had always distinguished them, and which had been the chief cause of their success in the past. According to most competent critics, this country at the present time possessed the most powerful fleet in the world, equal to any two or three fleets of other countries. Of these we had built within the last three years nine mastless turret vessels for our coast defence, carrying thicker armor, mounting heavier guns than any other vessels afloat, and whose turrets the recent experiments with the *Glanton* showed were really to be relied on. The most powerful of these vessels, however, had not yet been tried; they were scarcely yet complete, and if any of those he was addressing were to see them even in their present state they would be amazed at the complexity of their details, and the enormous expense which was necessary in their internal fittings. The *Devastation* had twenty-one distinct steam-engines for performing different duties connected with her, and there were upwards of 200 water-tight iron doors connecting her various compartments. To describe such monsters, so unlike the old line-of-battle ships, and looking like sea-forts rather than ships, he might use the prophetic language of Dryden in his *Annuus Mirabilis*:

"Her guns of mighty strength,
Whose low-laid mouths each mountain billow leaves,
Deep in her draught and warlike in her length,
She seems a sea-wasp flying through the waves."

In the meantime to compare with our fleet he was not aware that any other country could show similar vessels, with the single exception of the Russian vessel *Peter the Great*, of which recently something had been heard, which was not yet complete, and of which it was reported in some quarters that she had slightly thicker armor than the *Devastation*, but of which the advisers of the Admiralty state that it was doubtful whether she would realize the expectations of her builders, or whether the increased armor had not been gained by the sacrifice of other qualities. Besides what he had mentioned, this country had a large fleet of vessels of various descriptions, from the first of her class, the *Warrior*, to the last and most powerful of her class the *Sultan*. The public had been lately informed by an able critic, who was the designer of several vessels, that they had been already rendered obsolete by the fact that some of the minor naval powers of Europe were building vessels slightly superior in thickness of iron, and that the coast vessels, to which he had already referred, were rendered obsolete by the Russian vessels with two inches more iron in parts, and that the whole fleet of other vessels was rendered obsolete by reason that Russia, Turkey, and Brazil had commenced to build each one vessel, slightly superior to the best which England had already finished, and this country was urged in powerful and fear-exciting language to rush headlong into reconstruction. Already he (Mr. Lefevre) had said that the Admiralty had freely admitted the necessity for not standing still. They had already in hand two vessels at least as superior to those which these other powers had commenced, as they were said to be superior to our new completed vessels, and the only reason why they had not been further advanced was the extreme necessity at the present moment of looking to the fact that so many of our vessels were untried, and caution and due consideration were necessary before determining the designs of others. If the vessels we had—some of which were scarcely complete, and others not yet tried—were already to be pronounced obsolete because other Powers had commenced or designed such a vessel slightly superior in thickness of armor,

how very strong an argument did it present in favor of caution; for was it not reasonable to suppose that what had happened would happen again in the future? The ships of the future would be certainly surpassed as those the country now possessed, and just as those Powers, by building after this country and with the experience derived from English vessels, and with the aid of the designers of those vessels, had been able to surpass us, so in these times they might be surpassed as certainly and as easily by those who built later, even by a few months. The moral of such experience was that he who builds last will build best, and that no time was so good for commencing on a design as that when a rival had already embarked on a scheme of construction. There was another requisite for a great navy, viz., money, and certainly never was it more needed than at present, for there had been a most extraordinary and unprecedented rise in all ship building materials, and especially in iron and coal. As compared with last year, both these articles had nearly doubled in cost, and the contract prices of engines and ships were probably fifty per cent. higher than last year. Experience had proved, however, that such a great rise in price of commodities, and particularly of coal, was not likely to be very permanent. The demand must be checked by the high price, and there must necessarily be a reaction. In the meantime, though the prices were not sufficient for stopping any work which was due, or for delaying any work which was really necessary, yet certainly no prudent person would take the present occasion to rush into a reconstructive policy, involving large contracts running over a length of time, however such a course might be satisfactory to shipbuilders. If it be a fact that foreign Governments like Turkey and the Brazils were entering upon heavy contracts of this nature in this country, it could only be assumed that they had been led by panic-mongers into a very unwise course. In closing, the honorable gentleman said that the navy was not to be constituted by building one or even more large ships. Such ships needed the most careful handling, and it was only the most experienced officers and the best-trained men who could be trusted with them. Such men were not to be obtained except by years of careful discipline, and experience gained by long service in other vessels, and he might add, by the traditions of the service. There was no lack of such men in the Navy, and it was for this reason, even more than for any other, that they had all reason for confidence and belief in the future of the English Navy.

GUN-COTTON V. GUNPOWDER.

FROM the London Army and Navy Gazette we take the following: "The vexed question of 'gun-cotton v. gunpowder' assumes, daily, features of increasing importance. A series of most interesting experiments has just been conducted in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, with the view of ascertaining the relative degrees of effect produced by the explosion of compressed gun-cotton in combination with different proportions of nitre and other compounds, when detonated with 'Abel's electric detonator,' and the results which have been obtained throw a vast amount of additional light upon the varied characteristics of this explosive element. But before commenting upon these results, it may be as well to advert to the nature of detonation in contradistinction to combustion. One of the principal attributes of compressed gun-cotton is, that, when one or more of its discs are detonated by means of fulminate of mercury ignited in a tin tube with a little loose gun-cotton at the top—for such is briefly the construction of an electric detonator—it explodes with terrific violence and a loud report, whilst the same discs may be ignited with an ordinary fuse or portfire, and will only fly away harmlessly until they are consumed. Gunpowder on the other hand whether ignited partially or instantaneously throughout the mass, is invariably more or less violent in its action, and, no matter whether the slow-burning or the quick-burning natures are made use of, the difference in effects produced is only in degree. By detonation, in fact, as applied to compressed gun-cotton, we have a totally distinct action set up to that of combustion, either as applied to gunpowder or gun-cotton, being the result of the violent influence exerted by the fulminate of mercury in the detonator. The forces in this case which are brought into play are so excessive, that the chemical combinations previously existing in the compressed gun-cotton are destroyed, and the particles assume a fresh arrangement altogether, the various elements being separated from one another instantaneously, with great explosive effect. There is no necessity for any combination of the oxygen of the air with the ingredients of the gun-cotton to produce a condition analogous to combustion, a supply of oxygen being instantaneously evolved by the material itself in the act of detonation. Hence, in a word, combustion and detonation are two separate and distinct conditions. And the results which have been arrived at in regard to detonation are truly surprising. In order to produce any considerable effect with gunpowder, as is well known, it is absolutely necessary to confine closely the explosive agent, in order to form a resisting medium for the forces generated by the powder-gas waves to exert themselves against. But gun-cotton when detonated, requires scarcely any resisting medium, a slight 'tamping' of sand patted over it with the hand being sufficient to ensure a most violent explosion. Solid cylindrical shot ten inches in diameter, with a small hole drilled in the centre, were charged with a thin column of cotton filling the hole, and weighing about a pound; but although the extremity of the aperture was only lightly closed with clay, the shot were split into fragments by the explosion. Flat discs of compressed gun-cotton weighing one-quarter of a pound were also placed upon iron slabs 1.8 inch thick, resting upon hollow cylinders of iron, so as to support the edges but not the centres. A thin tamping of sand some few inches in depth was then piled over the gun-cotton, and upon the detonator being fired the iron slabs flew into a number of pieces. This property of gun-cotton when detonated, viz., to form a resisting medium for itself, cannot be too highly estimated.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE French Prince Imperial was to join the British Royal Military Academy as a "Queen's cadet," about the middle of this month, and to have for a companion the son of Dr. Conneau, the Emperor's physician.

THE Berlin correspondent of the London Times writes that the Russian Government has determined to construct a military port in the Bay of Balaklava, the harbor of Sebastopol being set apart for merchant ships.

THE President of the Republic has taken a bold measure to rehabilitate the Army of France. Henceforth, the pay of the soldier is 7½ instead of 5 sous per day, and his allowance of food has been augmented by nearly a pound.

THE number of seamen who have applied to be enrolled in the British Royal Naval Reserve is 33,957, of whom 28,979 have been actually enrolled. Out of the number enrolled, 2,747 have been discharged, 3,098 have died, 643 have joined the Royal Navy, and 10,624 have, on completing a period of five years, not applied to be re-enrolled. The present strength of the reserve is 11,867, of whom 11,618 have undergone their drill.

THE English siege train of the future is to be composed of 64-pounders, 40-pounders, and 8-inch howitzers. Of the latter description there have been very few constructed of late years, the attention of artillerymen having more particularly been directed to the perfection of the ordinary service guns, but an order has just been received at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, for thirty howitzers to be at once constructed for siege and garrison purposes.

THE English Secretary of State for War has sanctioned the introduction of playing cards into soldiers' recreation rooms, as an experiment to ascertain whether an amusement more exciting than is usually provided in those places will be the means of inducing soldiers to abstain from resorting to public-houses. Should the experiment prove successful, it is understood cards will be allowed to be played in the barrack rooms. Gambling will not, of course, be allowed, and intoxicating liquors will not be supplied on the premises.

EXPERIMENTS have recently been made in England to determine the velocity of the 9-pounder shot when fired with various charges of powder. From the 9-pounder gun of 8 cwt., with 3 1-2 lbs. of rifle large-grain powder, a velocity of about 1,500 feet per second was registered, the gun being quite uninjured. In order to obtain these results on service a stronger carriage is required, and will probably shortly be made. The carriage on which Sir J. Wentworth's new gun was fired on the sands at Southport has endured the strain of the heavy charges exceedingly well.

COLONEL DONN PIATT's Washington Capital says: "The person so popularly known as 'Old Probabilities' is a young man about 30, and is quite good-looking, having a handsome figure, a fine face with a Roman nose and clear blue eyes; walks with a military bearing, and takes his glass of wine and joke at dinner as if his nights were not given to thunder, lightning, wind, and rain, like unto the dreadful witch in 'Macbeth.' His real name is Myer—General, and of the United States Army. He is well endowed in a charming wife and worldly goods, and has a house that is one of the most attractive of Washington."

WE learn from the London newspapers that a series of experiments was lately tried at Sheerness with Major-General Boxer's "Parachute Light-balls," with the most satisfactory results. The object of these parachutes is to enable the party firing them to light up an enemy's position in the night, and they can be used by either land or water. The invention consists of a thin iron shell formed by two hemispheres riveted together, inside of which are two other iron hemispheres, the lower one filled with inflammable composition, and the upper one with a calico parachute, packed lightly in and attached to the case by a cord; this last hemisphere is attached to the one outside it by two chains. The parachute is connected with the lower hemisphere, which holds the composition, by ropes attached to three chains hooked into the hemisphere. The upper outer hemisphere has a socket for a fuse, and two leaders of quickmatch pass round from the latter to the bottom of the hemisphere which contains the light composition, and which is primed with the ordinary fuse composition. The compound for the light is nearly the same as that used for signal lights, and consists of saltpetre (ground), sulphur (sublimed), and sulphide of arsenic. In forming these light-balls the fuse is bored so as to ignite the quickmatch and priming of the light, sufficient force being thus obtained to separate the halves of the outer shell, and release the parachute, which expands, and, with the hemisphere holding the composition burning brightly from the vent hanging from it, is supported in the air and descends slowly. There are three sizes of the light-balls; 5 1-2 inch, which will burn one minute; 8 inches, which will burn 1 min. 40 sec.; and the 10-inch, which will burn 3 minutes. During these experiments the 10-inch ball was used, six being fired from a 10-inch travelling mortar by a detachment of the Royal Artillery. These experiments, the reports say, were attended with the most brilliant and satisfactory results, and were considered a complete success.

FACTS FOR THE LADIES.—Mrs. A. K. Brown, Galesburg, Ill., has used her Wheeler & Wilson Lock-Stitch Machine since 1857, and it is now in good running order, the first ten years making bags for a flour mill, averaging fifty-five bags a day, besides the sewing for a family of sixteen. See the new Improvements and Woods' Lock-Stitch Ripper.

MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages should be paid for at the rate of 50 cents each.]

AGNES—DODGE.—On Thursday, November 14, by Rev. A. B. Atkins, of St. John's church, Georgetown, Lieutenant J. A. AGNES U. S. A., to KATE J., eldest daughter of S. P. Dodge, Esq., of this city.